CHESSLIFE

MARCH 2022 ■ USChess.org

WHY DO I LOSE TO A FOURTH GRADER?

INCREASE YOUR WINNING CHANCES
with tips from
Kavutskiy, King, and Solon

Also in this issue:

The National K-12 Grade Championships

The Pan-American Intercollegiate Teams

Megan Paragua
(actual fourth grade champ)

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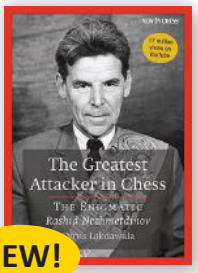


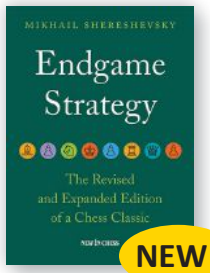
NEW!

The Greatest Attacker in Chess!
Cyrus Lakdawala

Rashid Nezhmetdinov (1912-1974) played fearless attacking chess. His games, full of tactical pyrotechnics, are his legacy and have reached an ever-growing audience on YouTube with more than 17 million views! In this book, Cyrus Lakdawala shows in more than one hundred impressive and instructive games and positions how Nezhmetdinov bluffed and sacrificed, and how he kept his cool to out-calculate his opponents.

Endgame Strategy
The updated classic with 100 extra pages
Mikhail Shereshevsky

In this widely acclaimed chess classic, Russian trainer Mikhail Shereshevsky explains how to master the most important endgame principles. Where other endgame manuals focus on the basics and theoretical endgames, this book teaches the 'big ideas' that will help you find the most promising and most practical moves in any endgame.



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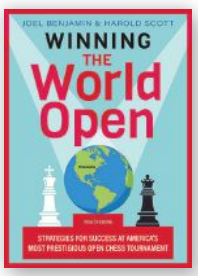
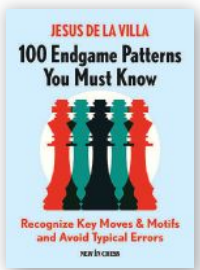


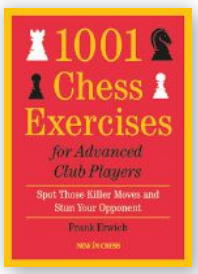
Strategies for Success at America's Most Prestigious Open Chess Tournament
Joel Benjamin & Harold Scott

In this new book, GM Joel Benjamin and Harold Scott present the history of the World Open, from its humble beginnings to the juggernaut it has become today. There are many entertaining stories and scandals that the reader will enjoy. *Winning the World Open* is as entertaining as it is instructive.

Recognize Key Moves and Motifs in the Endgame and Avoid Typical Errors
Jesus de la Villa

If you liked the best-seller *100 Endgames You Must Know*, you will surely like this new book by the same author, a Spanish Grandmaster. Endgame patterns are crucial. They help you spot key moves quicker, analyze and calculate better and avoid making errors.





Spot Those Killer Moves and Stun Your Opponent
Frank Erwich

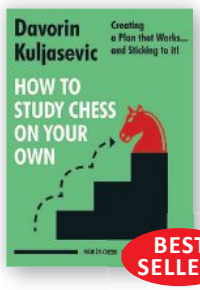
In this follow-up to his acclaimed *1001 Chess Exercises for Club Players,* Erwich teaches how to reach the next level of identifying weak spots, recognizing patterns of combinations, visualizing tricks and calculating effectively. Geared towards the reality of the advanced club player: it is not enough to spot simple combinations, at this level you must be able to resist your reflexes and look deeper.

Creating a Plan that Works... and Sticking to It!
Davorin Kuljasevic

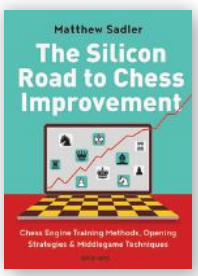
Stop wasting time and energy! Optimize your learning process, develop good study habits and get rid of useless ones.

"I recommend this book unconditionally, it will be the standard work on studying chess for years."
Barry Braeken, Schaaksite

"Extremely impressive." – *Richard James, British Chess News*



BEST SELLER!


Matthew Sadler
The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement
Chess Engine Training Methods, Opening Strategies & Middlegame Techniques

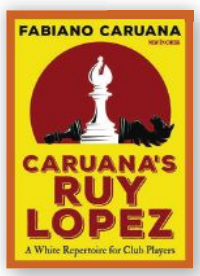
Explains how an Engine can Help Your Chess
Matthew Sadler

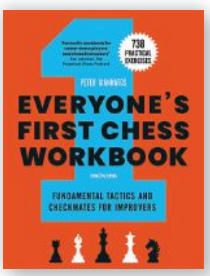
Matthew Sadler explains what is best in opening prep and improving your technique: playing training games against your engine! He also shows how the top engines tackle crucial middlegame themes, and presents new strategies that the engines found in popular openings such as the King's Indian, the Grünfeld, the Slav, the French and the Sicilian. Your chess engine can do so much more than just calculate variations!

Caruana Explains the Ruy Lopez for Club Players

"Caruana, like the late Bobby Fischer, has the ability to make complex material accessible to a wide audience, something not common for an elite player."
IM John Donaldson

"An ideal way for an up-and-coming player to get to grips with the white side of the Spanish. There can be no better training tool."
GM Glenn Flear, Yearbook 141





Fundamental Tactics and Checkmates for Improvers
Peter Giannatos

The perfect first chess workbook for adult improvers and other beginners. Coaches might find the book, with 738 exercises, very useful as well. It features a complete set of fundamental tactics and checkmate patterns.

'Beautifully formatted with 3 diagrams per page and tremendous examples.'
Fred Wilson, The Marshall Spectator

Magnus Carlsen: A Life in Pictures
Jonathan Tisdall

The story of the reigning World Chess Champion. The book shows more than 200 pictures, including some iconic images. Carlsen doesn't shy away from his celebrity status, and was both a G-Star model and a Real Madrid VIP-guest. But his most genuine smile breaks through when he talks chess with his youngest fans, the kids in a chess tournament.

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MARCH

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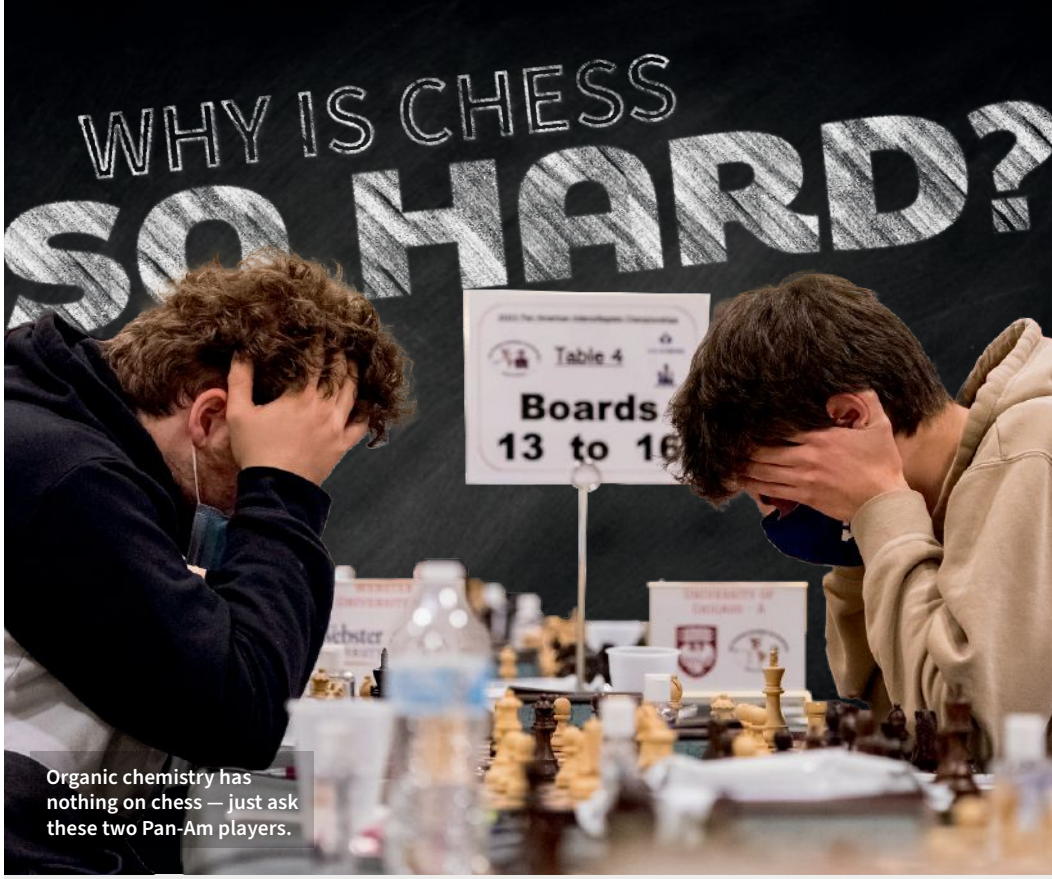
For up-to-date chess news and analysis, check out ***Chess Life Online*** at ***uschess.org/clo*** on a regular basis.

PHOTO: COURTESY BILL SIMMONS



Organic chemistry has nothing on chess — just ask these two Pan-Am players.

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IM KOSTYA KAVUTSKIY
(Endgame Studies) is a professional chess player currently living in Mountain View, California. In addition to playing chess all over the United States, he is also a successful coach and writer. Kostya is one of the co-founders of ChessDojo, and his Chessable course "Endgame Studies 101" is currently available for purchase.

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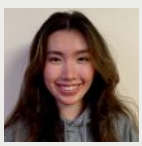
GM ELSHAN MORADIABADI
(K-12 Grades) is an active coach and player. Elshan won the 2017 US Chess Grand Prix and the Washington International in 2016. A coach for Team USA at the 2019 World Team Championships, Elshan also competed in the 2020 U.S. Championship.



WGM JENNIFER YU
(Pan-Ams) is the 2019 U.S. Women's champion. Currently focusing on her studies at Harvard University, Jennifer used her summer vacation to participate in the 2021 FIDE Women's World Cup.

WELCOME **NATASHA!**

This month's issue is the first under Natasha Roberts, who was promoted to Art Director on January 13. Natasha has been with US Chess for six years as our Creative Content Coordinator, overseeing *Chess Life Kids* and internal facing documents. Now she turns her talents to *Chess Life* and organizational style, and looking at this issue, it's clear we're in good hands! Welcome Natasha!

US CHESS

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US CHESS ONLINE

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IT USED TO BE THAT YOU COULD READ *CHESS LIFE* ONCE A month to keep up with the world of chess. Today's media landscape has changed, and in our 24-hour, always-on world, US Chess is doing its best to provide members news and information in the formats they prefer. Our internet and social media presence is growing with each passing day, so don't be left behind!

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CHESS LIFE ONLINE (CLO) is our news page. Here you'll find the latest information about US Chess events, tournaments both large and small, and features like Wednesday Workouts and our award-winning series of podcasts. **uschess.org/news**

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USCHESS.ORG This is our front page, and the front door to the world of US Chess. Here you can find your way to your rating, to the latest news articles at CLO, to governance information, and to TLAs. And that's just the start. **uschess.org**

FACEBOOK All our chess news is shared here as it happens, along with more general updates about our organization and the social purpose of our 501(c)(3) mission. Think of it as a mixture of news and outreach. **facebook.com/uschess**

TWITTER This is where we share links and news to keep you updated on what's happening in the world of chess. We're not as witty as Anish Giri or Magnus Carlsen, but we'll do our very best to keep you informed and entertained. **twitter.com/uschess**

LINKEDIN We're still building our LinkedIn page, and we'd love to have you swing by and follow us. This is where we plan to share updates on our progress and development as a non-profit, as well as the accomplishments we're most proud of as we go along. **linkedin.com/uschess**

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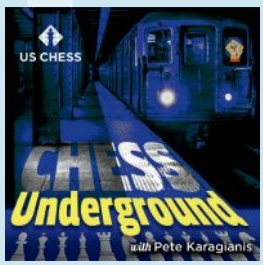
YOUTUBE Our YouTube presence is one of our new areas of emphasis. We're ramping up our content production with interviews with America's top players, and introducing new series like Jen Shahade's "Class is in Session" recordings and John Hartmann's "Leveling Up" instructive videos. **youtube.com/US-ChessFederation**



Is it Tuesday? Then it's *podcast* Tuesday.

Did you know that there's a new podcast every week from US Chess?

You can find links to each podcast at iTunes, Spotify, and Google Podcasts at **new.uschess.org/podcasts**

PODCASTS FROM US CHESS

ILLUSTRATION: SHUTTERSTOCK

Fame and fortune...

Magazine of Record

The February 2022 issue of *Chess Life* has an article on the 2021 World Championship match. But it only shows some of the games. I would prefer that the magazine show ALL of the match games, even if some are presented without analysis. I know the games can be obtained elsewhere, and I saw that links are provided, but it would be nice to have the entire match in a single handy reference source: our monthly magazine.

Jeff Tobergte
Via email

John Hartmann responds:
We have tended to shy away from printing bare game scores in recent years because they can usually be easily found on the internet. But there are cases — such as the World Championship — where we probably should think more about Chess Life *as our publication of record and bend a bit on that rule. So let's say I'll take your letter and your concerns under advisement.*

The Great Akiba

Your January article on the Saint Louis Chess Campus brought back fond memories of my visit to it. However, during my visit to the Hall of Fame I was quite puzzled by the omission of Akiba Rubinstein among its inductees.

Rubinstein has at least three opening variations named after him. He advanced positional and endgame theory with his precise play, and he is considered by some to be the greatest player never to achieve the world championship title. His induction into the Hall of Fame is overdue.

Denny Helmuth
Via email

John Hartmann responds:
I am assuming that your last visit was before 2019, as Rubinstein was rightfully inducted into the World Chess Hall of Fame that year!

Merit Badges

I read your article (January 2021) about Rex and [Dr.] Jeanne Sinquefield with great interest. In 1971-72 I was a Boy Scout who, in the midst of the Fischer craze, was developing what would become a lifelong fascination with chess. At the time I wrote a letter to the chief Scout executive, begging the BSA to offer a chess merit badge. He wrote back, saying that they were considering it, along with a lot of other things. Predictably, it never came to fruition. But the Sinquefields got it done!

I have been a Scout leader for many years. I attended the launch of the chess merit badge at a Virginia Jamboree in 2010. In 2011, I became the first counselor for it in my council. Since then, I've conducted merit badge classes for Scouts at summer camp, and assisted perhaps a couple of hundred Scouts in earning the badge. It's very popular!

Russel Wittig
Via email

John Hartmann responds:
I was an Eagle Scout many years ago, and how I wish there had been a chess merit badge back then! It's certainly one of Dr. Jeanne Sinquefield's greatest chess-related achievements.

Send your letters to **letters @uschess.org**. Letters are subject to editing for style, length, and content.

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US CHESS TRUST

IN PASSING

Larry Tamarkin
1956-2021

BY **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**

Larry Tamarkin, early 1990s

US CHESS LIFE MASTER AND INVETERATE player Larry Tamarkin passed away on October 19, 2021, at his Levittown, New York, home. According to his 96-year-old mother Molly the cause was a collapsed lung. He was 64 years old.

Larry had been an integral part of the New York chess scene since 1972, inspired by Bobby Fischer's spectacular victory over Boris Spassky. "It's because of Fischer that I'm involved in chess," Tamarkin revealed in the December 2002 issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*.

He was America's most active tournament player in 1983, playing 495 rated games. Steve Immitt explained Larry's feat in a June 1984 *Chess Life* article. "Since Larry was living at the old Chess Center of New York at the time, he had the opportunity to play in a tournament almost every night."

It was at the Marshall in 1984 that Larry first surpassed a rating of 2200, beating several masters in the process. While playing thousands of chess games through the years, Larry also directed tournaments and managed at both the Manhattan and Marshall Chess Clubs.

Larry had another distinction. For Bruce Alberston, Chess in the Schools, and myself, he may have produced more chess diagrams by the old rub-on, transfer method than anyone on Earth — maybe as many 10,000 such diagrams. The drudgery never seemed to bother him. He loved creating chess positions.

"Larry had spirit and passion for everything he did," said organizer and FIDE arbiter Sophia Rohde. He put it his own way on social media. "I am interested in politics, art, chess, and new movies that have a good story." New York master and teacher Shernaz Kennedy added that "Larry liked watching the Godfather, Batman, and Superman movies. He especially enjoyed the comedies of Woody Allen."

To be sure, Larry had a good sense of humor and could be somewhat wry. Asked why he wasn't playing against then 17-year-old, star-on-the-rise Irina Krush at a New York simultaneous exhibition in late 2001, he said straight-faced to a Village Voice reporter, "I'd sign up to play her, but I don't want to embarrass myself any more than I have to."

Grandmaster Michael Rohde knew Larry well. He offered this insightful take. "Larry was a very humorous and expressive person who loved chess, chess books, and software. He was generous in that he would notice, and give money to, homeless people even when he did not have much to give. I am grateful for the warmth which Larry showed my family and I am sure he will be missed by many."

Larry's humor could be surprisingly ironic. At the Manhattan Chess Club's Carnegie Hall venue, I came into the office at noon one day and asked Larry if any players were already in the club. "A couple of prospective members," he dryly offered. "They're in the back. Two old musicians."

As I moved to greet them, it became clear Larry had resorted to a bit of understatement. Sitting across a chess table were immortal artists Isaac Stern and Vladimir Horowitz.

Two old musicians indeed. But that was Larry being cute. He was a treasure. Friends and comrades are going to miss him.

Myron Lieberman
1941-2022

BY **BY US CHESS AND THE US CHESS TRUST**

ANYONE WHO HAS ATTENDED A U.S. Open since 1974 has seen a couple — always together — walking from meeting to meeting in matching tee shirts that often sported the logos of past Opens. Gradually over the years, quick, sure strides between workshops became more cautious, and eventually a walker appeared in front of Myron. But neither their judgment nor

PHOTO: HOLLY CANNELL

their dedication to US Chess ever lost a step.

"Between the two of us, we've given over 100 years to chess," Myron said in an interview in 2015. They donated both hard work and funding. Music was another passion, particularly the Arizona Music Hall of Fame, which they likewise supported. It's impossible to write about Myron, even on his passing, without including Rachel. And Myron would want it that way.

LOVE AT FIRST DANCE

For the first 20 years of his life, Myron lived in Los Angeles, California. Then he moved to Arizona. The two met in the fall of 1962 at an Arizona State University football after-game dance. "I went looking for a boyfriend," Rachel once admitted with a laugh, recalling her 18-year-old self. Myron, however, stopped by on his way home to North Phoenix simply to outwait the traffic snarl. It was love at first dance. Ever after, they were together. *Really together*. "We've tried to share our lives, not just share a room," Myron said.

Because the gift of life on Earth is finite, there is an inevitable end to even the greatest partnerships. Myron died Christmas Eve, 2021.

A LIFETIME OF HELPING OTHERS

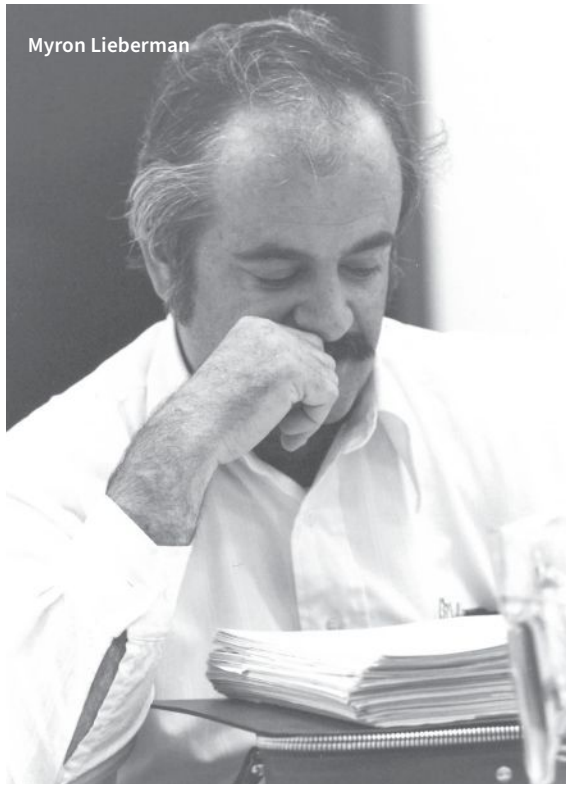
"One of the deepest bonds that made Myron and Rachel such a legendary team was a shared commitment to helping people," Al Lawrence said. Lawrence worked with Myron and then Rachel when they were members of the Policy Board (now the Executive Board) of US Chess and he was executive director. Later, as managing director of the US Chess Trust, Lawrence again worked alongside Myron. "Right up to his final days, his focus was on helping others. Chess was one of the ways he knew lives could be changed. So he gave thousands and thousands of hours to chess on local, state, and national levels."

Lieberman started organizing and directing chess tournaments as president of his high school chess club in 1957. He played correspondence games with a transfer student from Germany after that student returned to Europe. During the 1960s, Myron was an active member of the Organization of Western Chessmen. This was his introduction to US Chess and organized chess.

He organized a match by teletype between Motorola facilities in Phoenix and Scotland. Myron saw what chess had done for many children written off by others. That was a pivotal factor in his decision to volunteer for advocacy of the value of chess.

SIX DECADES OF SERVICE TO US CHESS

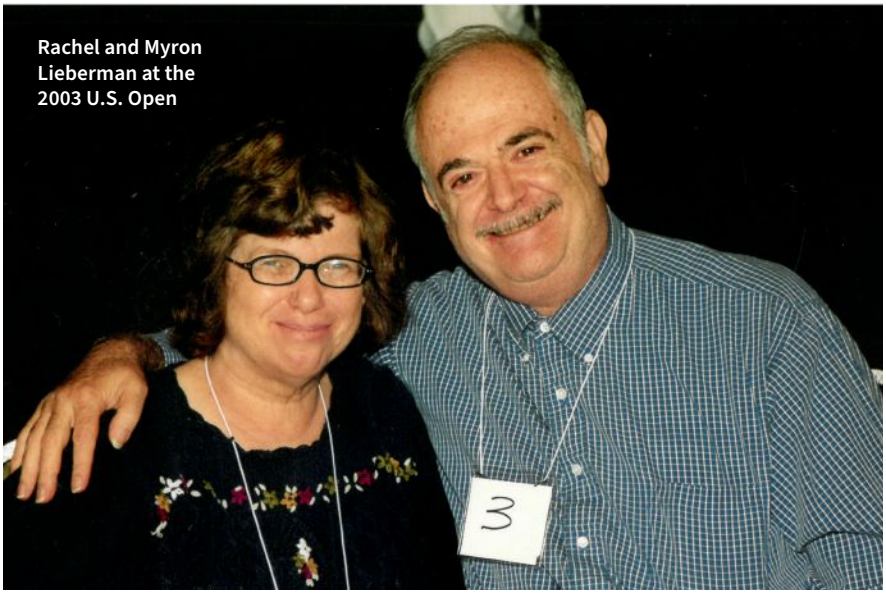
Long the primary organizer and tournament director (TD) in central Arizona, for 25 years, Lieberman was president of the Arizona Chess Association, which later became the Arizona Chess Federation, Inc. He organized or directed many Arizona state chess championships during this time. He was chief assistant TD at the Statham tournaments in Lone Pine, California, from 1976 to 1981, and Myron wrote the chapter on history and statistics in *The Best of Lone Pine* by Grefe and Waterman. He organized the U.S. Open in 1978 in Phoenix and other national tournaments in the following two decades, while holding special events for the Phoenix Chess Club.


Myron Lieberman

The current president of US Chess, Mike Hoffpauir, recalls, "I first met Myron Lieberman and his beloved Rachel about 2008 when I became a delegate for the Virginia state chapter and attended my first delegates meeting. I observed him carefully when he spoke (which was frequently), noting his deep knowledge of US Chess bylaws, business practices, and 'chess politics.' Later I learned he was a former US Chess secretary and vice president. I immediately developed a deep respect for his considerable knowledge and actually came to rely on it, from time-to-time, when I needed more context on a US Chess issue. The entire US Chess community is saddened by his loss, but his legacy lives on in the structure and activities of our organization. Rest in peace, Myron, and thank you for all you have done."

Myron earned the titles of US Chess National Tournament Director and FIDE International Arbiter. He served as US Chess national secretary (1978-81), treasurer (1981-84), and vice president (1984-87). At the time of his death, he also served as secretary of the US Chess Trust and as US Chess delegate at-large, as well as chair of the US Chess Outreach committee.

Truly, Myron Lieberman never stopped giving.


Rachel and Myron Lieberman at the 2003 U.S. Open

PHOTOS: US CHESS (LEFT), DAVE LOVE (RIGHT)

US Chess Executive Board Votes to Move Organization's Headquarters

US Chess to complete move to St. Louis by end of 2022.

IN A UNANIMOUS 8-0 VOTE, the US Chess Federation's Executive Board has elected to move the US Chess headquarters from Crossville, Tennessee, to the St. Louis, Missouri, metropolitan area in 2022. This was a two-part process that carefully considered the following questions:

- Should US Chess maintain its headquarters in Crossville, Tennessee?
- If not, where should US Chess locate its headquarters?

US Chess Vice President Randy Bauer observes, "I served on the Executive Board in 2003 when the decision was made to move to Crossville from New Windsor, New York. US Chess was a fundamentally different organization in 2003 and Crossville met our needs. In the almost two decades since, US Chess has evolved substantially and consequently so have its business needs."

A prime example of this transformation is the challenge US Chess has faced in staffing its Crossville headquarters. With a 2021 population of just over 12,000 people, Crossville is best known for its golfing, outdoor activities, and as a retirement community. With its broader mission resulting from a change in 2014 to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, US Chess now requires different specialized talents to support its operations — skillsets that have proven difficult to find in Crossville. Presently, only three of US Chess' 18-member staff are located in Crossville. While US Chess has successfully integrated a telecommuting staff, we prefer that certain positions be located in our headquarters building. In recent years, we rarely receive applications from qualified candidates in the greater Crossville area for these types of positions.

In considering where to locate its headquarters, the Executive Board also keyed in on several attributes that would benefit the organization and its mission:

- Affordable cost of living
- Central U.S. locations
- Superior transportation access
- Large and diverse population from which to draw a skilled staff
- Chess culture

Taken together with the synergy of St. Louis as the chess capital of the United States, Missouri's second-largest city became the obvious choice.

US Chess is forever grateful for the support provided by the City of Crossville, the Crossville community, Crossville businesses, and the State of Tennessee over the past 18 years. They will always be acknowledged as a valued part of our organization's history and embraced as dear friends of chess.

REGISTER TO VOTE: 2022 US CHESS ELECTIONS

US CHESS WILL HOLD AN ELECTION in 2022 for two at-large positions on the US Chess Executive Board. For full details, please refer to the Call for Nominations published in the October 2021 issue of *Chess Life*. (Note: Nominating deadline was December 31, 2021.)

If you are a US Chess member 16 or older by June 30 of the election year, you are eligible to vote in the election for Executive Board members. In order to vote, you must first be registered.

Check *https://new.uschess.org/registered-voters* to see if you are registered to vote or log in to the US Chess website, where your voter status is easily seen on your profile dashboard.

To register to vote, log into your US Chess member dashboard and click on the blue "Register to Vote" button (located within your profile information between your membership expiration date and the line for TD Level). During the registration process, you can also choose how you prefer to receive your Executive Board Election ballot: by postal mail or via email for an online ballot.

Your voter registration and ballot preference must be completed by May 1, 2022 (11:59 CT) in order to be eligible for the 2022 Executive Board election. Those not choosing a ballot preference will continue to receive a ballot by postal mail.

If you do not have an account linked to the US Chess homepage (*uschess.org*) via the Member Site Login in the upper right corner, visit *https://new.uschess.org/user/login* and follow the prompts for a first-time log in below the User Account login box. You will need your US Chess ID and an email address unique to your US Chess membership in order to set up an account. Your account is your gateway for accessing your full range of US Chess benefits.

If you are unable to set up an account and register to vote online, you may also request to be registered to vote by sending your US Chess ID number and whether you want to vote online or by paper ballot to *governance@uschess.org*. Our staff will register you.

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6-SS, G/90,d5

Friday April 22
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3:00 PM Round 1

Saturday April 23
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2:30 PM Round 3
6:30 PM Round 4

Sunday April 24
9:00 AM Round 5
1:00 PM Round 6
5:00 PM Awards Ceremony

ENTRY FEE
$80 postmarked by 3/14, $95 by 4/11, $105 after/on-site.

SIDE EVENTS
Bughouse Tournament
Fri. April 22 11:00 AM
Entry fee: $40 per team

Blitz Tournament (G/5,d0)
Fri. April 22 7:00 PM
Entry fee: $30 4/11, $35 after/on-site.

SECTION/AWARDS
Age as of 1/1/2022
Under 8 top 15 individuals
top 500 – 799, top U500, top 6 schools
Under 10 top 15 individuals
top 700 – 999, top U700, top 6 schools
Under 12 top 15 individuals
top 900 – 1199, top U900, top 6 schools
Under 14 top 15 individuals
top 1100 – 1399, top U1100, top 4 schools
Under 16 top 8 individuals
top 1300 – 1599, top U1300, top 3 schools
Under 18 top 8 individuals,
top 1500 – 1799, top U1500, top 3 schools

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"The Little Big Giant"

Getting to know Rea Hayes.

BY **JOHN HARTMANN**

WITH US CHESS' IMPENDING move to St. Louis, I was recently tasked with helping to make sense of, and sort through, the US Chess library. As it turned out, this was no small undertaking.

In the days before *The Week in Chess* and ChessBase, a chess editor would need access to extensive print resources — particularly foreign language and state periodicals — for game sourcing and fact-checking. The roots of the US Chess library can be traced to this requirement and to editorial exchanges. But over the years, its holdings have also grown through bequests and donations.

As I tried to orient myself in this wonderland of chess literature, I kept coming across books and bulletins bearing the name of Rea Hayes. And these weren't just any books — there were rare Spence editions, bulletins from Dutch and German events, onion-papered Soviet pamphlets. This Hayes, I realized, must have been a serious collector.

Think about what it would have been like to build a chess library in the 1940s and 1950s. There was no Amazon to buy from, no list of specialized chess dealers to search for on Google. Who was Rea Hayes? Just how did a guy in Cincinnati get his hands on stuff like *this*?

And who were the people who were inscribing them with love and a child's unsteady hand?

■ ■ ■

Rea Bruce Hayes was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1915. At age 11, a friend tried to teach him chess, but as he says in a 1980 interview, "I wasn't getting much from him, so I read up on the game in the encyclopedia. It wasn't long before I was teaching my friend."

Already we find two of the leitmotifs of Rea Hayes' life. Chess would become a constant for Hayes, and he would excel at it wherever he went — from Toronto to Los Angeles, back to Canada, and then to the United States for good — earning tournament wins and state titles all along the way.

And then there was the "tremendous chess library" that "[he] started when [he] was 11," which he carried with him throughout his travels. Eventually it grew into the "thousands" — the remnants of which I encountered in Crossville.

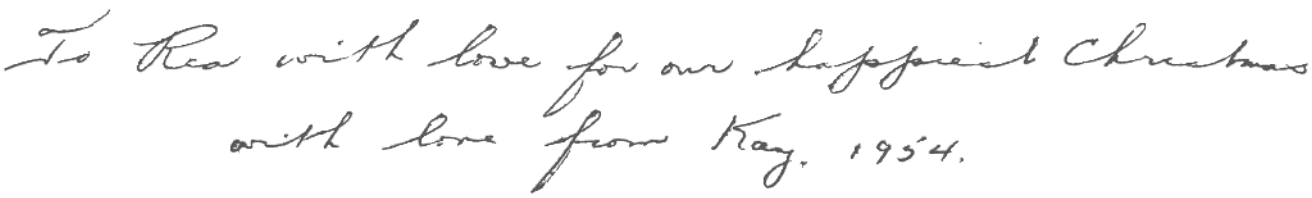
But we're getting ahead of ourselves here. There is still so much story to be told.

■ ■ ■

We next run into Rea Hayes at the University of Toronto and the Hart House Chess Club, for which he served as president from 1935–1937. The steady face of a young Rae appears on the Hart House website, with a note describing his presidency as "energetic... [u]nder Hayes there was a spark of new activity at the Club as correspondence matches were played against a number of major U.S. universities."

The first of three appearances in Canadian championships occurs in 1936. Hayes finishes in ninth place with a score of 3/11, and writes the tournament book for the event under the name "R.B. Hayes."

With his graduation from university in 1937, chess appears to have been moved to the backburner for a few years; at the least, the trails in the chess columns grow cold. And with good reason — during this time he



Top, left: Hayes battles Yanofsky in a 1949 simultaneous exhibition. Top, right: the 1981 U.S. Senior Champion. Inset throughout: actual inscriptions from the Rea Hayes collection.

PHOTOS: COURTESY ALAN R. HAYES.

begins his actuarial career, and celebrates both a 1940 engagement and a 1941 wedding to Kathleen "Kay" Davin, to whom he would remain wed for 57 years.

Kay and Rea's daughter Gladys was born first; then Eleanor, and then Alan Rea. The young family makes a temporary move to Los Angeles in 1945 for Rea's job, but is back to the Toronto area just one year later.

Rea's third-place finish in the 1947 Canadian championship is perhaps his best result, but the 1951 championship (where he finished in a disappointing 10th place) gives him his calling card — a memorable win over Abe Yanofsky.

FRENCH DEFENSE, CLASSICAL VARIATION (C13)

Abe Yanofsky
Rea B. Hayes
Canadian Championship, Vancouver, 08.1951

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 dxe4 5. Nxe4 Be7 6. Bxf6 Bxf6 7. Nf3 0–0 8. Qd2 b6 9. c3 Bb7 10. Bd3 Nd7 11. Qc2 Be7 12. 0–0–0 f5 13. Ned2 c5 14. Rhe1 Rf6 15. g4 fxg4 16. Bxh7+ Kh8 17. Ng5 Nf8 18. Be4 Bd5 19. Bxd5 exd5 20. dxc5 Rxf2 21. Ne6 Nxe6 22. Rxe6 bxc5 23. Qg6 Bg5 24. Re5 Bh6 25. Kb1 Qf6 26. Qxf6 gxf6 27. Rxd5 Re8 28. Rh5 Kh7 29. Nc4 f5 30. h3 g3 31. a4 Kg6 32. Rxh6+ Kxh6 33. a5 g2 34. Ka2 Rf1 35. Rd6+ Kg5 36. h4+ Kxh4, White resigned.

An eight-time Canadian champion and 11-time Olympian, Yanovsky was the first Canadian grandmaster and undoubtedly the strongest Canadian player before GM Alexandre Lesiege. He won or drew against many of the best players of his day, including Gligorić, Najdorf, Reshevsky, and Ólafsson, but his most famous victory came in 1946 against GM Mikhail Botvinnik.

By defeating Yanofsky, Hayes put his "Botvinnik number" at two — he beat the man who beat the (future) world champion. Anyone who defeated Hayes, by extension, could claim a "Botvinnik number" of three, and this tracing of one's victories up to the immortal Russian became a bit of a parlor game for Hayes' competitors over the years.

The Hayes family moved to Greenville, South Carolina, in 1953. Then it was two years in Chattanooga, Tennessee, followed by a move to Cincinnati, Ohio, where they would reside for 30 years. Rea won the South Carolina state championship in 1953 and 1954, the Alabama Open in 1956, and the Cincinnati Open in 1959. His name began to appear in *Chess Review* with some regularity, including a September 1953 photo welcoming him to the Palmetto State. Soon he was listed as an Ohio correspondent.

It is in this period — between, say, 1948 and the mid-1960s — that many of the books and bulletins in the Hayes collection can be traced to. I say this with confidence not just because of the dates of the events, but because of the inscriptions I found within: "From Gladys to Daddy, October 1950." "To Rea with love for our happiest Christmas, with love from Kay, 1954." "To Daddy with love from Alan, Christmas, 1954." "Love from Eleanor, 1959 birthday."

There are dozens of these inscriptions inside the books donated to US Chess by Hayes. As a journalist, I was fascinated. Surely there was a story to be told here. Who was this Hayes? Where did all these books come from?

Perhaps more tellingly, I also saw these books and inscriptions through the eyes of a father; one who, having flown for the first time in two years, was worrying about how his trip might affect his seven-year-old daughter at home. With each book opened, with each tender note read, it was hard not to see myself and my own mortality staring back at me from those yellowing pages.

■ ■ ■

It's clear that Hayes put his growing library and organizing talents to good use. The May 1958 issue of *Chess Review* mentions the revival of the Cincinnati city championship and Hayes' third place finish in the event; what it leaves out is his role in growing the game in his new city. Hans Multhopp told me that Rea Hayes — "one of the loveliest people you'd ever meet" — revolutionized chess in his adopted hometown, helping to start one of its main clubs and its city championships.

Hayes continued to play over the years, one Ohio state championship in 1963, and five Cincinnati city titles — the final one coming in 1979, when Hayes would have been 64. He won the first U.S. Senior Open in 1981 and he was awarded the Koltanowski Award by US Chess for "the gift of his extraordinary chess library" at the 1982 U.S. Open.

The Hayes family left Cincinnati in 1987, with both Kay and Rea sent off in style by the members of the Parkway Chess Club. They eventually returned to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where Hayes once again became an integral part of the chess community. One of his final triumphs came in 1992, where Hayes became Tennessee state champion at the age of 76, scoring 4½/6 against a field with an average rating of 2229.

Even in his retirement years, Hayes brought the same energy to the game that he'd exhibited throughout his life. Scott Cantrell recalls meeting Hayes at a 1996 "Living Legend" tournament in Chattanooga, where Hayes himself was the living legend! His influence was such that the Chattanooga Chess Club made him a "Life Member," and they continue to host an annual Rea Hayes Open to this day.

■ ■ ■

Rea Hayes died in 2001, three years after his wife Kay passed away. His legacy continues in his children, of course, and getting to speak to his son Alan Rea as part of my research has been unexpectedly moving. But what I have learned in the past few weeks is that his legacy also continues in dozens and dozens of chess players across this continent.

The November 1951 issue of *Canadian Chess Chat* has a feature on "the little big giant of Canadian chess." There the diminutive Hayes is described as being a man of "sage and sound" advice and as "ever a worker."

It's funny — you can see these qualities in the photographs. It's that same steadfast face from 1936 through 1951 through 1987. It's that same modest, honorable man staring back at me through the years as I try to piece together his story.

It's a reminder to do what good I can while I'm still here, and to hope that I will be remembered as fondly as is Rea Hayes.

LINE ART, THIS PAGE AND FACING: US CHESS ARCHIVES

Home Field Disadvantage

When moral support doesn't

BY **GM ANDY SOLTIS**

WHEN GM MAGNUS CARLSEN again won the Norway Chess International last year it seemed natural.

He was not only the world's highest-rated player. He also had the home-field advantage. He was playing before his countrymen.

But in previous editions of the Stavanger tournament Carlsen had suffered some of his worst results since becoming world champion, including a next-to-last-place finish in 2017.

Why? Because of another way chess is unique: We often see a home field *disadvantage.*

A 2021 study of five million amateur and master games, at various locations around the world, found that when players travel it has "a positive effect on performance."

It's not a major effect. Players who travel score 2% better than they do at home, according to the research by Uri Zak of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

But 2% amounts to an advantage of roughly an extra 15 rating points.

This finding contradicts the experience of pro sports. In the NBA playoffs, for example, the home team wins about 65 percent of the time, research indicates. That's like a 115 rating point edge.

Of course, chess is not basketball. There are no deafening cheers that get the adrenalin of the hometown heroes pumping. Or loud noises to intimidate the visiting opponent trying to make a free throw.

Nevertheless, FIDE, the world chess federation, officially recognized home field advantage more than a decade ago. It instituted a rule for world championship matches: "If the match is played in the country of one of the players, then the opponent shall receive 100,000 Euros from the prize fund."

That's nearly $10,000 per game for the "visitor." There doesn't seem to be any big-bucks compensation like it in other sports and games.

So far, this fee has been paid out twice — and the visitor won both matches.

Why could there be a disadvantage? Because playing before your own cheering section can be an emotional burden.

For example, GM Svetozar Gligorić blamed playing in his hometown for losing his last good chance to become world champion. "I was really unlucky," he said of a 1968 Candidates match, played "across the street from my house. Friends from all over Belgrade would drop in to talk to me and I couldn't say no."

The last hurdle that GM Bobby Fischer faced before becoming world champion was a 1971 Candidates match with GM Tigran Petrosian. FIDE chose what seemed to be a neutral location, Buenos Aires. Soviet officials disagreed. There are too many Argentinians of Armenian descent and their moral support distracted Petrosian, they said after he lost.

Perhaps the best evidence of home field disadvantage comes from two matches that pitted GM Viswanathan Anand and GM Gata Kamsky. The first was held in Anand's homeland of India. Here is how the match ended.

QUEEN PAWN'S GAME (A46)

GM Gata Kamsky
GM Viswanathan Anand
Candidates Match playoff, Sanghi Nagar, 08.07.1994

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 c5 3. c3 g6 4. Bg5 Qb6 5. Qb3 Ne4 6. Bf4 Nc6? 7. d5! Nd8 8. Nbd2 Nf6? 9. e4 d6 10. Bb5+ Bd7 11. a4 Qc7 12. O-O Bg7? 13. e5! Nh5 14. exd6 exd6 15. Rfe1+ Kf8

16. Bxd7 Qxd7 17. Qb5!, Black resigns.

Anand conceded the match in view of 17. ... Qxb5 18. Bxd6+ Kg8 19. axb5 and Bd6xc5. Databases indicate he had only lost one shorter game in his previous international career. His avid fans "diverted his mind from chess," his father said of the match.

What would have happened if it were held on more neutral turf? We got the answer a year later, when the same two players faced off, again in a match leading to the world championship. They played in Spain, where Kamsky had crushed GM Nigel Short six months before in another match. This time Anand beat Kamsky fairly easily.

Enough about grandmasters. What about you? Does it matter whether you see friendly faces when you look up from the board?

Many parents are certain it does. They believe rooting their children on will put them at ease.

Wrong, say many kids. They can't concentrate on the board when they are worrying about how their parents will react to the outcome of their game.

QUIZ FOR MARCH

IF LONG GAMES BORE you, you're in for a treat this month. Our quiz features six positions from games that ended in 20 moves or less. All were played in the past year in over-the-board tournaments. Your task is to find the fastest winning line of play in each diagram. This will usually mean a forced win of a decisive amount of material, such as a rook or minor piece. For solutions, see page 59.

PROBLEM 1
Adam Omarsson
WIM Tea Geuci

BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 2
IM Kamran Shirazi
WGM Sophie Milliet

BLACK TO MOVE

PROBLEM 3
GM Daniil Yuffa
FM Dashgyn Ibadov

WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 4
GM David Paravyan
GM Anton Korovov

WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 5
GM Alexander Onischuk
FM Akir Salih

WHITE TO MOVE

PROBLEM 6
IM Lennis Martinez
FM Phileas Mathieu

WHITE TO MOVE

When GM Vladimir Kramnik was 12 he finally convinced his parents to stop accompanying him to tournaments. "It was very unpleasant. I feared losing, knowing that it would upset them," the future world champion told *Shakhmaty v Rossii* magazine in 1995.

Some adults want to play a role. A school coach once arrived at a U.S. scholastic tournament and asked where the "coach's box" was located. He had trained his players to take direction from his hand signals, according to Dewain Barber's book, *Humor in Chess*.

Since 2018, parents and coaches have been barred from the playing halls of major American scholastic events. A US Chess policy statement cited reasons for the ban, including the "almost universal preference" of boys and girls. The ban "lessens pressure on them, which in turn increases their enjoyment of the game," it said.

It also lessens pressure on the parents. In 2019, Carlsen's father was asked if he gets nervous watching his son play in super-tournaments. "I was already nervous when he played the under-11 tournaments," Henrik Carlsen said.

To pass the time, when Magnus was 10, he showed other parents that he was a pretty good player. Here's a game from when Henrik might still have had hopes of defeating his son at the board.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E97)
Henrik Carlsen
Nicolas Axel Mellem
Vikersund, 2001

1. Nf3 g6 2. d4 Nf6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 O-O 5. e4 d6 6. Be2 e5 7. O-O Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. b4 a5 10. bxa5 Rxa5 11. Nd2 Nd7 12. Nb3 Ra8 13. Be3 f5 14. f3 f4 15. Bf2 g5 16. c5 Rf6 17. Nb5 Rg6 18. Qc2 g4 19. cxd6 g3 20. Qxc7! Qe8 21. hxg3 Rxg3 22. dxe7 Rxg2+!? 23. Kxg2 Qg6+

(see diagram next column)

24. Kh3! Nf6+ 25. Qxc8+ Rxc8 26. Rg1 Qh5+ 27. Bh4 Rc2 28. Rg5 Qe8 29. Nd6 Qd7+ 30. Nf5! Ne8 31. Rag1 Kh8 32. Rxg7! Nxg7 33. Bf6 h5 34. Rxg7 Rxe2 35. Rf7+ Kg8 36. Rf8+ Kh7 37. e8=Q, Black resigned.

A generation earlier, an American mother attended tournament where her son won three

national scholastic titles in two years. But she got bored. "I got tired of sitting around and watching my son play," she recalled.

Since she was going to be at tournaments anyway, she studied to become a tournament director. She earned the title of international arbiter, and directed six U.S. Championships, two world championships and, perhaps most famously, Deep Blue's defeat of GM Garry Kasparov. She was the late Carol Jarecki.

For up-to-date chess news and information, check out ***Chess Life Online*** at ***uschess.org/clo*** on a regular basis.

The Value of Endgame Studies

Improving calculation and imagination through solving.

BY **IM KOSTYA KAVUTSKIY**

ALMOST EVERY TOP PLAYER and coach, at some point, has espoused the value of solving endgame studies (or composed endgame problems) in order to take one's calculation skill to the next level. It's a very natural recommendation — endgame studies are thought to help develop a player's imagination, resourcefulness, and overall sense for piece harmony, among other things.

Traditionally, endgame studies have been recommended for really *advanced* players, rated around 2100-2200 FIDE and above, simply because most are quite challenging. They are designed to be similar to brain teasers, or riddles that seem to have no solution. Moreover, the difficulty level can vary significantly from puzzle to puzzle within the various collections of endgame studies. Since there's usually little to no instruction on how to actually solve the exercises, less experienced solvers can become quite frustrated.

Yuri Averbakh

As a player, my experience tracks with the general wisdom. When I started solving studies, my US Chess rating was around 2000, but I still found them to be incredibly vexing. Over time, my calculation skills definitely improved as I became advanced enough to handle the challenge. Eventually endgame studies became a significant part of my training, especially when I was working towards the IM title.

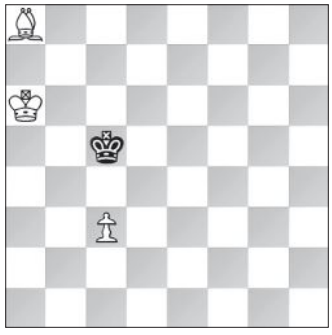
As a coach, however, I've found that plenty of endgame studies are perfectly solvable for the average club player (US Chess ratings between 1200-2000), or, at the very least, instructive enough to be worth going through. Consequently, the intent of this article is to share the tremendous instructive value of endgame studies and to help make them accessible for a much wider range of players.

So yes, not all endgame studies are out of reach. Take, for example, this relatively simple puzzle from the great GM Yuri Averbakh: White has only one way to achieve a winning position. Can you find it?

AVERBAKH, YEAR UNKNOWN

(see diagram top of next column)

Black's king threatens to play 1. ... Kc4, winning White's last pawn and forcing a draw. The only way to prevent this plan is with **1. Bd5!**, sacrificing the bishop in order to stop



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

1. ... Kc4. After **1. ... Kxd5** White plays **2. Kb5**, with a winning king and pawn endgame.

For advanced players the above puzzle is likely easy, but for those who have never solved any kind of endgame study before, a puzzle like this one can be quite eye-opening. And this, of course, is one of the major benefits of solving (or simply playing through) lots of endgame studies: one gets exposed to tons of tactical patterns and motifs that are completely novel for them.

ENHANCING YOUR THOUGHT PROCESS

For those who have never solved studies before, it's important to understand some of their defining characteristics. Typically, endgame studies:

- **Have a clear premise,** such as "White to play and win" or "White to play and draw," and

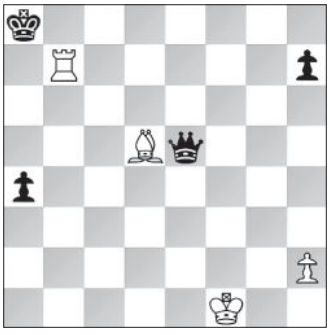
PHOTO: ERIC KOCH, NATIONAAL ARCHIEF / ANEFO

- **Contain exactly one solution,** which will almost always be unexpected, counter-intuitive, and/or aesthetically pleasing in nature.

There are other elements to endgame compositions, but in order to get started, you only need to understand that every problem will have a clear solution — it just won't be obvious, intuitive, or simple at first glance!

Of course, training yourself to find tricky solutions is the whole point, but beyond that, studies do a great job of developing some of the most subtle aspects of calculation, such as finding in-between moves, spotting the opponent's resources, and — perhaps trickiest of all — seeing quiet moves. Take, for instance, this short study from Dall Ava:

DALL AVA, 1963



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

White has a powerful discovered check ready to go against Black's king, but 1. Re7+? would simply be answered with 1. ... Qxd5. So, what to do? The bishop must be moved somewhere, keeping the discovered threat alive but without allowing Black's queen to generate counterplay.

SOLUTION:

1. Bf3!

Now threatening a check to win the queen, while also placing the bishop on a square that defends against Black's 1. ... Qf4+.

Now 1. ... Qf4 loses to 2. Rf7+ while 1. ... Qe3 is met with 2. Rb3+. And, of course, 1. ... Qa1+ runs into 2. Rb1+!

1. ... Qh5!?

A nice try, since taking the queen with 2. Bxh5 leads to a theoretical draw after 2. ... Kxb7 (bishop + wrong rook pawn).

2. Rf7+! and White wins the queen next.

Again, this is not the most challenging problem, but it could easily stump a number of players. The move 1. Bf3 would probably strike very few people as "obviously winning" at first, but by working through the position and examining the resources available for Black, one could come to the conclusion that this is in fact the only winning move.

There are many more studies like this that challenge players to think in ways they might not be used to — perhaps by having to work backwards or altering the move-order of their solution. So not only are studies filled with beautiful motifs that are instructive on their own, they also can greatly strengthen various points of the calculation process.

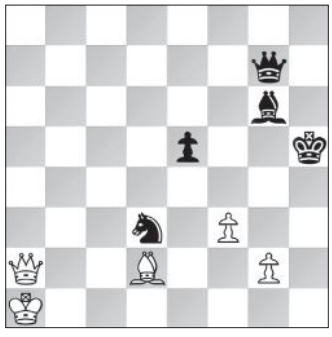
GRIT, CONFIDENCE, AND CREATIVITY

Finally, there are benefits to simply *attempting* to solve challenging puzzles. To echo what my friend, IM Cyrus Lakdawala, contended in his book of studies and mating problems, *Rewire Your Chess Brain*, the process of trying to solve tricky problems is in itself beneficial because you're forcing your brain to look for creative solutions. Even a simple practice of spending five minutes on a puzzle before reviewing the answer can bring immense benefits to your tactical vision, even if you get hardly any problems right.

In many cases, it may feel like a study is "impossible" to solve. But knowing that there is a solution can give an extra motivational push to keep trying ideas until something works. And there's nothing quite like the "aha" satisfaction you get from eventually spotting the answer.

I'll never forget the following classic from Kaminer & Botvinnik, as I spent what felt like an eternity trying literally everything until I finally found the win.

KAMINER & BOTVINNIK, 1963



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

Mikhail Botvinnik

SOLUTION:

White starts down a piece, which means something needs to happen quite quickly.

1. g4+

Most studies don't start with a check, but this one does.

1. ... Kh4 2. Bh6!!

The real star move. Threatening 3. Qh2 mate and forcing Black's queen to a very vulnerable square.

In case of 2. Be1+ Black escapes after 2. ... Nxe1 (or just *2. ... Kh3*) 3. Qh2+ Kg5 4. Qd2+ Kf6.

2. ... Qxh6

White is now two pieces down, but wins thanks to a lovely geometric motif:

3. Qh2+ Kg5 4. Qd2+!

Since Black's queen on h6 is hanging, his next move is forced.

4. ... Nf4 5. Qd8, mate.

Although it took a lot of time and effort, solving studies like this boosted more than my calculation. They also bolstered my confidence, which I think is easy to understand. If you're able to overcome tough problems in training, it will make you feel like you can solve anything over the board.

So, are endgame studies for everybody? No — if you've just recently gotten into chess, even the "easy" problems could still be well above your punching weight. But studies aren't just for incredibly advanced players either. In this author's view, once you've learned your basic endgames and are familiar with the most common tactical themes (forks, pins, skewers, deflections, removing the defender, etc.), investing a bit of time to solve some studies could be an absolute game-changer.

PHOTO: HENK LINDEBOOM, NATIONAAL ARCHIEF / ANEFO

One Man's Tarrasch

The Tarrasch Defense for club players. Part 1 of 6.

BY **ALEX KING**

IF YOU'RE LIKE MANY CLUB players I know, you're less confident in your Black opening repertoire against 1. d4 than against 1. e4, and your repertoire against 1. Nf3 and 1. c4 is even more shaky. If you feel "seen" by this description, I invite you to consider the Tarrasch Defense, a near-universal setup against 1. d4, 1. Nf3, 1. c4, and pretty much everything *except* 1. e4.

In this series of articles, I aim to present an overview of the basic ideas of the Tarrasch, accompanied by enough theory for a club player to play the opening with confidence, as well as resources for you to do your own research (a popular activity these days!).

THE BASIC SETUP

WHITE TO MOVE

After 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c5 we reach the basic starting position of the Tarrasch Defense, but this move order is far from strict — for example, White could instead have played 3. Nf3 or 3. e3, and Black's moves also could have been played in a different order.

What essentially characterizes the Tarrasch is that it is a variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined (with some combination of White's d2-d4 + c2-c4 and Black's ... d7-d5 + ... e7-e6) where Black plays an early ... c7-c5. As you can see from the above diagram, this creates a lot of pawn tension (possible pawn captures) in the center of the board, which usually resolves into one of a few standard pawn structures. Before I explain those structures, I want to offer some general pros and cons of this opening to help you decide if it would be a good fit for you.

WHY THE TARRASCH DEFENSE?

Easy development. Black's pieces develop onto natural, active squares, where they control the center and attack pieces and squares in White's position. If you feel claustrophobic when having perpetually bad bishops and redundant knights, the Tarrasch will feel like a breath of fresh air.

More space. The Tarrasch is relatively unusual among queen's pawn openings in that Black often secures a space advantage (pawns that are farther advanced than White's). Black rarely feels cramped and can sometimes even stake out territory in White's half of the board.

Structural play. The standard pawn structures in the Tarrasch help guide your moves well into the middlegame, so you aren't at a loss for how to proceed once the game has departed from your specific theoretical knowledge.

An important downside of the Tarrasch is that Black can end up with a static pawn weakness, like an **isolated queen's pawn** or the related **hanging pawns** structure. It's important to feel comfortable handling these typical structures and believe in their potential strengths instead of just their liabilities.

TYPICAL STRUCTURE: IQP

BLACK TO MOVE

After the further moves 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. g3 Nf6 7. Bg2 Be7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. Bg5 cxd4 10. Nxd4 — one of the main lines of the Tarrasch — we reach the diagram above. (We will focus more on specific theory and move orders in the next installment of this series.) Black's d-pawn is an isolated queen's pawn (IQP), which by definition has no other pawns to defend it and must be defended by pieces instead.

The potential trouble of the IQP is this: if Black fails to sufficiently defend this pawn, then White can win it for free. But

the strengths of the IQP include the space advantage it confers upon Black, the fact that it does not impede the development of any of Black's pieces, and the potential for it to advance into White's position, sometimes to rather disruptive effect. Here are a few examples of what and what not to aim for:

THE GOOD

Josef Benzinger
Siegbert Tarrasch
Munich (1), 07.1932

BLACK TO MOVE

The namesake of the Tarrasch Defense was the elite German player and writer Siegbert Tarrasch (1862–1934), who introduced the opening as early as the 1880s. A devotee of the IQP, he powerfully demonstrates its dynamic potential in this game.

21. ... d4!?
The IQP steps off of the diagonal of White's fianchettoed bishop and also opens up Black's light-squared bishop.

22. Bh3?
A critical waste of time. Stronger was 22. Rac1 when Black is only slightly better.

22. ... Re4 23. Bg2
White perhaps realized that 23. Bxe6 could be met with the same move as in the game.

23. ... d3!
Shattering White's center and kingside, and further activating Black's pieces.

24. exd3 Rxd3!
Now White loses his queen after 25. Qxd3 Bc4, but sadly this was his best try.

25. Qc2? Rxf3! 26. Qxe4 Rxf2+ 27. Ke1 Qxb2, White resigned.
White resigned in light of overwhelming threats including 28. ... Ba5+ and 28. ... Qc3+.

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Siegbert Tarrasch, circa 1900

THE BAD

Richard Reti
Siegbert Tarrasch
Bad Pistyan (14), 04.22.1922

BLACK TO MOVE

This time Tarrasch finds himself with an unfavorable version of the IQP — White has solidly blockaded it and is already attacking it with three pieces, with both rooks ready to add to the pile-up. Meanwhile Black's pieces are passive and uncoordinated, putting no pressure whatsoever on White's position. Tarrasch's next move backfires immediately:

17. ... Bc5?
Better was the reinforcing 17. ... Nc7, although White still has an advantage.

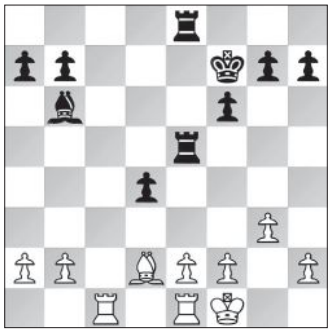
18. Bxc5! d4 19. Qa3 bxc5 20. Qxc5
White has simply won a pawn for nothing, and Reti went on to steer the game into a rook ending which he won smoothly in 38 moves.

THE EQUAL

Geza Maroczy
Siegbert Tarrasch
Monte Carlo (26), 03.17.1903

(see diagram top of next page)

Here the position is balanced: the advanced IQP is cramping the e2-pawn, which White has to "babysit" with his stronger pieces just



BLACK TO MOVE

as Black has to do with his IQP. Neither side has any clear way to make progress, and after a few moves the players agreed to a draw:

27. ... Kg6 28. Bf4 R5e7 29. Bd2 Kf5 30. Bb4 Re5 31. h3 h5 32. a3 Re4, draw.

TYPICAL STRUCTURE: HANGING PAWNS

Closely related to the IQP structure is the "hanging pawns" structure. (The term is misleadingly scary-sounding — it doesn't mean that Black's pawns are about to be captured for free!) This structure is simply the IQP structure where Black's b-pawn has turned into a c-pawn via the recapture ... b7xc6 or ... b6xc5, giving Black two not-quite-isolated pawns on the d- and c-files. Many of the general principles of the IQP structure still apply, as in the following example:

HANGING PAWNS

Aron Nimzovich
Siegbert Tarrasch
Saint Petersburg (5), 04.28.1914

BLACK TO MOVE

As in the IQP structure, the hanging pawns structure offers significant dynamic potential. The advance of one of the hanging pawns, even as a sacrifice, can ignite a powerful attack in the center and/or kingside:

18. ... d4!
Unleashing Black's deadly bishop pair.

19. exd4?
White had to try to keep the position closed with something like 19. e4.

19. ... Bxh2+!! 20. Kxh2 Qh4+ 21. Kg1 Bxg2!
A spectacular combination enabled by the fact that White's kingside is almost completely free of defenders.

22. f3
After 22. Kxg2 Qg4+ 23. Kh2 Rd5 White can only avoid mate with 24. Qxc5 Rh5+ 25. Qxh5 Qxh5+ 26. Kg2 Qg5+ 27. Kh2 Qxd2.

22. ... Rfe8! 23. Ne4 Qh1+ 24. Kf2 Bxf1 25. d5
Here 25. Rxf1 loses a queen after 25. ... Qh2+.

25. ... f5 26. Qc3 Qg2+ 27. Ke3 Rxe4+!
Beginning the final king hunt.

28. fxe4 f4+ 29. Kxf4 Rf8+ 30. Ke5 Qh2+ 31. Ke6 Re8+ 32. Kd7 Bb5, mate.

TRANSITIONS

Akiba Rubinstein
Siegbert Tarrasch
San Sebastian (5), 02.24.1912

WHITE TO MOVE

9. Nxc6
Here White exits the IQP structure and enters the hanging pawns structure.

9. ... bxc6
After this recapture Black's d-pawn is more solidly protected, but his c-pawn is now vulnerable on a semi-open file.

10. 0–0 Be6 11. Na4 Qa5 12. Be3 Rc8 13. a3 c5 14. Nxc5
This simplifying tactic transforms the pawn structure again, back to the IQP.

14. ... Bxc5 15. b4 Bxb4 16. axb4 Qxb4 17. Bd4 0–0 18. Bxf6 gxf6 19. Rxa7
White still has a better pawn structure, but Tarrasch managed to simplify the position further by trading off his IQP, after which a draw was soon agreed:

19. ... Rc4 20. e3 Rfc8 21. Ra1 d4 22. exd4 Rxd4 23. Qf3 Kg7 24. Rfb1 Qd6 25. h3 Rc2 26. Rd1 Ra2 27. Rac1, draw.

BOTH SIDES NOW

Although Black has the IQP or hanging pawns in all the examples above, there are also some variations of the Tarrasch where the roles are reversed and it is White who has the IQP or hanging pawns. For this reason — and to more completely round out your chess education — you will need to be comfortable playing both sides of these structures. Here is a basic summary of ideas for each side:

Playing with the IQP (or Hanging Pawns)

- Develop your minor pieces to active squares — potentially even in the opponent's half of the board.
- Develop your rooks onto some combination of the c-, d-, and e-files.
- Don't trade too many pieces — your opponent has less space, so keep them feeling cramped and subject to attack.
- Keep your d-pawn sufficiently protected, but also look out for opportunities to advance it — even as a sacrifice — if it helps you start an attack.

Playing against the IQP (or Hanging Pawns)

- As Nimzovich said, "First restrain, next blockade, lastly destroy!" — apply pressure to the d-pawn and make sure it can't advance safely. If it's an IQP, try to put a piece (especially a knight) on the square directly in front of it, fixing it in place.
- Trading pieces can help neutralize your space disadvantage as well as your opponent's attacking ambitions.
- Do not neglect development! Every tempo counts.

I hope you feel inspired by these examples of the Tarrasch Defense and its typical structures. In the coming months I will more thoroughly survey the theory of the Tarrasch and White's various move orders and setups against it.

Working the System(s)

Two types of tactical training

BY **FM NATE SOLON**

WHAT WOULD YOU DO in this position?

WHITE TO MOVE

If you are like most players, your mind immediately jumps to **1. Rac1**. It just feels right. You bring your last piece into the game, occupy an open file, attack the queen, and eye Black's back-rank weakness.

But if you're in the habit of looking for your opponent's resources — a very good idea! — you might ask yourself if Black has any way out. And you might spot **1. ... Rxd5!**. Now 2. Rxc4 would run into (oops) 2. ... Rxd1 mate, so White is at an impasse. You have several ways to continue the game, including the ultra-tricky 2. Qg4, but alas, there's no win.

At this point you might return to the starting position and try to improve on your initial attempt. If you use the other rook with **1. Rdc1**, Black no longer has the ... Rb5xd5 resource. In fact, Black has no move to both save the queen and prevent mate. The game is over.

Whether or not you found 1. Rdc1 depends on a lot of factors: your skill as a calculator, how motivated you are to solve this puzzle, whether you've had your morning coffee, etc. But no matter how good, motivated, or caffeinated you might be, you probably didn't think of 1. Rdc1 as your *first* option.

Using the a1-rook just looks so much more natural. The d1-rook is already well-placed on a half-open file supporting the knight. Meanwhile the a1-rook isn't doing anything — in fact, it's begging to join the game! The pair of rooks on c1 and d1, controlling open files in the center, make a perfect picture. Every pattern you've learned over thousands of games is telling you to use the a1-rook.

But those patterns aren't relevant in *this* position. The only thing that matters are the back-rank weaknesses. You need to get at Black's back-rank while protecting your own. It turns out that 1. Rdc1 is the way to do that.

In his widely acclaimed *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, psychologist and economist Daniel Kahneman divides thinking into two systems:

- System 1 operates automatically and quickly, with little or no effort and no sense of voluntary control.
- System 2 allocates attention to the effortful mental activities that demand it, including complex computation. The operations of System 2 are often associated with the subjective experience of agency, choice, and concentration.

Kahneman emphasizes that these are metaphors and not literal structures in the human brain. But they are apt metaphors for the different thought processes required to solve a chess problem.

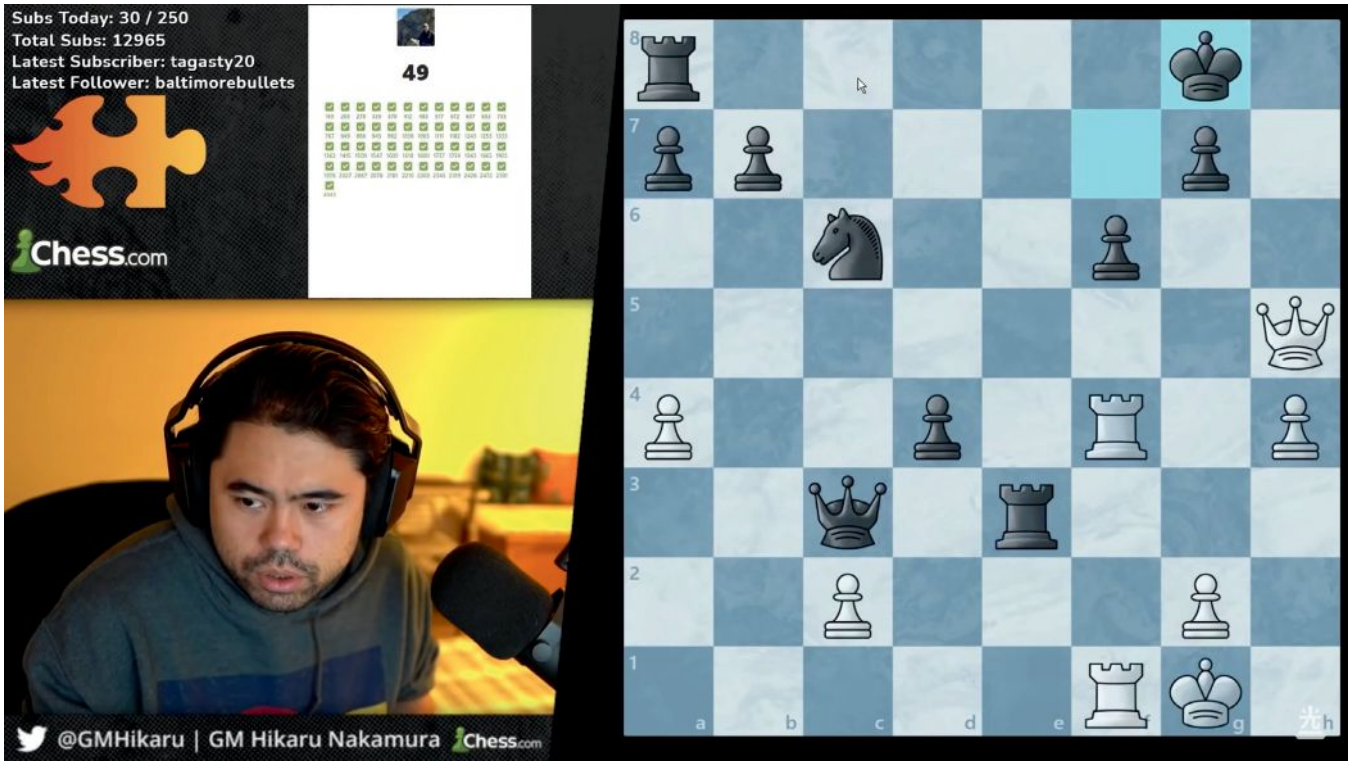
You might argue that there aren't two systems, just a continuum of time and effort, but if you pay close attention to what happens inside your head when trying to solve the first puzzle presented here, you can observe the two distinct systems at work. Almost as soon as you look at the position, 1. Rac1 pops into your head with no effort or control, just as Kahneman describes System 1 thinking. Then you need to consciously rev up an entirely different thought process — System 2 — to find defenses for your opponent.

If you want to pinpoint the exact moment System 1 gives way to System 2, a great way to do it is by playing Puzzle Rush. For the uninitiated, Puzzle Rush is a feature on *Chess.com* where you're presented with a rapid-fire string of puzzles that ramp up in difficulty. The first few puzzles are usually simple captures or mates in one. For an experienced chess player, System 1 can handle these easily.

As the problems gradually get harder, System 1 begins to falter, and where it falters depends on your playing strength and tactical prowess. For me, a FIDE master, it's usually around problem 20. For a newer player it might be problem five or 10. For the best solvers in the world, like GM Hikaru Nakamura, it might not be until problem 30 or 40. In any event, System 1 fails at some point, and it's up to System 2 to step in.

We usually categorize puzzles according to their chess characteristics. In this sense,

IMAGE: COURTESY *CHESS.COM*



GM Hikaru Nakamura's System 1 and System 2 skills shine in his Puzzle Rush sessions.

everything in Puzzle Rush would be considered "tactics." But it makes just as much sense to categorize puzzles according to the type of thought process required. Seen this way, earlier and later puzzles in Puzzle Rush — easy and hard tactics — would fall into different categories because they involve completely different kinds of thinking.

GM Jacob Aagaard has also written about Kahneman's distinctions between Systems 1 and 2 in his magnum opus, *Grandmaster Preparation: Thinking Inside the Box*. A subtle but telling feature of several of Aagaard's books is that they are organized not by chess tactics, like forks and pins, but by mental tactics, like candidate moves and prophylaxis. This shows how important one of the world's top trainers deems the training of thought processes.

While Aagaard's books are geared towards advanced players, working on one's thought processes is just as important for beginning and intermediate players — perhaps even more so, as beginning players have not yet developed the habits to think through a position effectively. For those intimidated by the complexity of Aagaard's writings, Dan Heisman is another brilliant coach who often discusses thought process in an accessible way on his YouTube channel.

Back to Kahneman and chess: System 1 and System 2 involve different kinds of thinking, but they also require different kinds of training. It's even possible to be improve at one while getting worse at the other.

Consider this typical situation. When doing puzzles online a lot of people use the "guess and check" method. When the position appears on the board they immediately make the first move that comes into their head. If it's wrong, the computer corrects them, and they continue guessing until they get it right. The guess-correction-guess pattern is repeated until the puzzle is "solved."

This process may be superficial, but for System 1 training it's actually pretty effective. System 1 feeds off the mental database of positions you've seen. With the guess-and-check method you're seeing patterns and getting quick and accurate feedback on the best move. It's not a bad way to build up your database of tactical motifs.

But when we look at how this process is playing with System 2 the picture gets a lot uglier. Playing the first plausible move that pops into your mind is a terrible process for an actual chess game. While there's no real punishment for guessing a wrong move in puzzles, you might just lose on the spot if you play a bad move in a real game.

Solely doing puzzles with the guess-and-check method is likely to strengthen System 1 while stagnating or even harming System 2. You're developing your pattern recognition while simultaneously reinforcing counterproductive thinking patterns. This is possibly why so many people experience plateaus in chess improvement. They're getting better at one thing and getting worse at another thing at roughly the same rate — although, to be fair, stagnation does not require any special explanation. Improvement in any complex field is characterized by plateaus and setbacks.

So which system do you prioritize? As always, your training will depend on your goals — you want to focus your training on the kind of chess that actually matters to you. If you're primarily a bullet player, System 1 is almost all you need. In fact, stopping to think in one-minute chess is a dangerous habit that should be avoided.

I suspect that most players ultimately measure their progress by slower time controls. In that case, the more you prioritize slow chess, the more your training should focus on problems that force you to engage System 2. These are problems where your first instinct isn't right, or at least isn't adequate to solve the problem in full. They should force you to follow complex chains of logic, push yourself beyond what's comfortable, and challenge your assumptions.

Techniques for improving System 2 could be broadly classified as "thought processes" — that is, those that work on patterns of thinking. While we have a relatively clear vocabulary for talking about basic tactical motifs, we are fuzzier when it comes to

PHOTO: YOUTUBE

thought process. Possibly this is because most players, even very strong ones, are not fully aware of what's going on inside their heads during a chess game. Nonetheless, these patterns of thought are crucial to your ultimate success or failure in a chess game, so there is good reason to improve them, even if the way forward is difficult or unclear.

One of my favorite ways to do this kind of training is by thinking out loud. Look at a challenging position with a coach or training partner. Start analyzing the position as you would in a game, except say everything you're thinking out loud. This has two benefits.

First, the listener can provide feedback on your thought process, pointing out steps that don't make sense and suggesting improvements. Second, expressing your thoughts out loud can also make them more conscious *to yourself*. The only problem with this exercise is you can't use it during a tournament game — you'll get some strange looks if you narrate your thought process in the tournament hall.

Let's return to our initial problem to see some examples. What sorts of mental moves would be helpful in finding the right move in this position?

WHITE TO MOVE

One useful mental tactic would be to look for problems with your plan. If you don't do this you might play 1. Rac1, get hit with 1. ... Rxd5, and lose the game. Let's call this one *falsification*.

Once you spot the problem with 1. Rac1 it's a good idea to look for better ways of implementing the same idea. Let's call this mental tactic *improvement*.

What these mental tactics have in common is that they're helpful in many positions, but they don't come naturally to most people. This is why mental tactics need to be honed through training. I find it helpful to think of them in terms of questions that I should remember to ask myself periodically:

"Is there anything wrong with my plan?"

"How could I execute this idea to make it work?"

With that in mind, here's one more position to test your skills. See if you can use the techniques of falsification and improvement to find the best move. Warning: System 1 might need some help.

WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTION:

1. Qd5+! (1. Bd5+? Re6 lets Black off the hook, since Bd5xe6+ would be illegal on account of the pin on the long diagonal) 1. ... Bxd5 2. Bxd5+ Re6 3. Bxe6 mate.

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NEXT One Up!

EIGHT-YEAR OLD MEGAN PARAGUA IS MAKING MOVES.

BY HAROLD SCOTT

I RECENTLY DID BATTLE WITH NEWLY MINTED US CHESS expert Megan Paragua at the 25th annual Eastern Chess Congress in Princeton, New Jersey. After the game, I was surprised to learn that Megan was just eight years old, as she was exceptionally poised and extremely focused.

While this was the first time that we had played, I had already seen Megan in action at the Queens Chess Club in Queens, New York. From watching her games, I knew that she was not to be taken lightly, as she had already notched some terrific results. In fact, the week after we played, she notched her first IM scalp, defeating the "Iron Man" Jay Bonin in a rapid game and breaking 2000 in the process. Although I defeated Megan in our game in Princeton, it's clear to me that she has an incredibly bright future in chess if she wants it.

To clear up any confusion about the Paragua name: Megan is not the daughter of GM Mark Paragua, but she is his niece. Megan's father, Jannvince, is Mark's younger brother. Both Paragua brothers grew up playing chess in the Philippines. Mark's history is well-known — he became a master at age nine, and then became the youngest Filipino grandmaster ever at age 20, beating Eugenio Torre's record by two years. (Since then, that record has been shattered by no less than GM Wesley So, who earned his title at age 14.) And Jannvince is no slouch himself, sporting a strong expert rating.

Megan was introduced to chess not long after her older brother Dominic started receiving lessons from their father. Jannvince discovered that his six-year-old was a quick study, so he started teaching her to play as well. Soon Megan was given an account on *Chess.com*, and to her father's surprise, she started beating players rated 600-700.

Megan's online success convinced Jannvince that she was ready for her first over-the-board tournament, so in August 2019 he signed her up for a scholastic tournament in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, run by Bruce Davis. The result was impressive: six-year-old Megan finished at 50% with two wins, two losses, and a draw. She earned a provisional rating of 1172.

After this promising debut, Megan began competing regularly in tournaments run by Chess in the Schools, The Right Move, and the Marshall Chess Club. Her first big scholastic victory came in November 2019 at the 4th Annual New York State Girls Chess Championship. Megan scored a fantastic 5½/6 to win the Primary Championship section. She followed this up with a strong result at the 54th New York State Scholastic Championships with a fifth-place finish, scoring a solid 5/6.

PHOTO: COURTESY JANNVINCE PARAGUA.

While COVID-19 kept everyone mostly sidelined in 2020, Megan kept working and studying. She returned to active play in 2021, finishing second in the FIDE Online Cadets Girls U10. Megan then gave herself an early ninth birthday present with her biggest victory yet. She became the fourth-grade champion (via tiebreaks) at the 2021 National K-12 Grades Championship in Orlando, Florida, this past December. Her impressive 6½/7 score is a sign that she will be a force to be reckoned with for years to come.

I asked Megan who her favorite players are, expecting to hear names like GMs Magnus Carlsen, Garry Kasparov, or Bobby Fischer. Wrong, wrong, and wrong! She said that her favorite player is IM Carissa Yip — certainly an understandable choice, as it was great to see Carissa's breakthrough performance and her first U.S. Women's Championship victory in 2021.

Still, I was curious: was she was influenced by any of the world champions like Carlsen, Viswanathan Anand, etc.? Megan didn't buckle; she thought for a moment, then told me, "I like WGM Jennifer Yu, too." How wonderful — and how important — it is for young girls like Megan to have such strong role models to look up to!

It will be interesting to see Megan's progress over the coming months. Having just turned nine, and with a rating that is hovering around 2000 as we go to press, she has a chance to become the youngest female master in American chess history. Megan's target is Rachael Li, who earned her master title at the age of nine years, 10 months, and 10 days.

For now, Megan only works with her uncle Mark periodically, and the time is spent going over her games. She does more directed study with her father Jannvince, who takes inspiration from Mark's push to master and beyond all those years ago.

But Megan also enjoys studying on her own. Kasparov (among others) has noted that the ability to work hard is a talent in itself; if that is the case, then Megan is a talented child, studying an average of three to four hours a day. When she was attending virtual school during the pandemic, she managed to train up to six hours daily!

With her devotion to chess, you might wonder how well-rounded a person Megan could possibly be. It turns out that she's doing just fine in that regard, with interests in art, swimming, and tennis. She is even learning to play the guitar!

Still, chess is her passion, and Megan has set her goals high. She hopes to one day become the Women's World Champion; after playing her and getting to know her a bit, wouldn't bet against her.

Here is a recent game of Megan's where she outlasted New York master Oliver Chernin in a back-and-forth struggle. The game is annotated by Megan's uncle, GM Mark Paragua.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, SEMI-TARRASCH VARIATION (D41)

Oliver Chernin (2205)
Megan Paragua (2016)
26th Annual Northeast Open, Stamford, 2021
Annotations by GM Mark Paragua

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 c5 3. Nf3 e6
A very solid setup for Black.

4. g3 Be7 5. Bg2
After 5. d4 White would enter a different version of the Symmetrical variation: 5. ... cxd4 6. Nxd4 d5! 7. cxd5 Nxd5 8. Bg2 Nxc3 9. bxc3 0–0 10. 0–0 e5 and I would definitely prefer Black here because of the space advantage and the weak c3-pawn.

5. ... 0–0
The position is equal after 5. ... d5 6. cxd5 Nxd5 7. 0–0 0–0 8. d4 cxd4 9. Nxd4 Nxc3 10. bxc3 Nd7!.

6. 0–0 Nc6 7. d4

7. ... d5!
Opening the position is a smart choice in my opinion.

8. cxd5 Nxd5 9. Nxd5 exd5 10. b3 Bf6 11. Bb2 Be6
More flexible would be 11. ... Re8, preserving the option of playing the bishop to g4. Play might continue 12. Rc1 cxd4 13. Nxd4 Nxd4 14. Bxd4 Bxd4 15. Qxd4 Rxe2 16. Rfd1 Be6 with equality.

12. Rc1 c4?
This move gives White control of the e4-square.

13. bxc4 dxc4 14. e4 Nb4 15. Ba3 Qa5 16. Bxb4 Qxb4 17. Rb1 Qa3 18. Rxb7 Qxa2?
A mistake, allowing White to grab the center. Black is slightly worse after 18. ... Rab8.

19. e5 Bd8
Getting rid of the b7-rook with 19. ... Qa6 20. Rb1 Bd8 is preferable, but Black is still struggling after 21. d5.

20. d5 Bc8 21. Rb1? Bf5! 22. Ra1 Qb2 23. Qc1

23. ... c3
Also playable is 23. ... Rb8, but the game continuation keeps the pressure on White.

24. Nd4 Bg6 25. d6 Rb8 26. Nc6 Rb6 27. Nxd8
Better is 27. Qe3! so that the f1-rook could go to c1.

27. ... Rxd8 28. Qg5 Rbb8 29. h4 h6 30. Qg4?
Either 30. Qf4 or 30. Qe3 keeps White in the game.

30. ... Rb4 31. Qf3 c2!
A very precise move for Megan.

32. Qe3

32. ... Qxa1!!
The final blow.

33. Rxa1 Rb1+ 34. Qc1 Rdb8 35. Kh2 Rxc1 36. Rxc1 Kf8 37. Ra1 Rc8
Here 37. ... Bf5 leads to an even easier win.

38. Rc1 a5 39. f4 Rc4 40. Bh3 Rd4 41. Bg4 Rd2+ 42. Kg1 Be4 43. Kf1 a4 44. Be2 Bd3 45. Bxd3 Rd1+ 46. Ke2 Rxc1 47. Kd2 a3 48. Bc4 Rg1 49. Kxc2 Rxg3 50. f5 Rg4 51. Bb3 Rg2+ 52. Kd3 a2 53. Bxa2 Rxa2 54. Ke4 Rd2, White resigned.

Megan, solving a study by IM Yochanan Afek. Photo courtesy Jannvince Paragua.

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A WIN FOR CHESS

The National K-12 Grades return in person.

BY **GM ELSHAN MORADIABADI**

THE 2021 EDITION OF THE National K-12 Grade Championships took place from December 3-5, 2021, at the Rosen Shingle Creek resort in Orlando, Florida, after a 2020 hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the new omicron strain making its appearance right before the tournament began, I couldn't help but wonder how things would turn out for this year's event (I'm sure others did as well).

I am pleased to report that, with 1,235 participants in the kindergarten through K-12 championships, the event was definitely a success for everyone. Hope had prevailed! It was such a pleasure for me to attend as one of the co-commentators, along with WGM and 2017 U.S. Women's champion Sabina Foisor, to observe these young talented players in action.

From my years of experience as a participant, coach, delegate, or commentator in different international and national events like this one, it was easy for me to expect exciting chess throughout the event. From what I observed, I can say that the games exceeded my expectations both in quality and exhilarating nature. While I leave most of my comments about the events and its ups and downs in my game analyses, I would like to share a personal note about why these national events are so dear to me.

Since becoming an IM and subsequently a GM, I have visited national scholastic events regularly, both in my native country of Iran and here in the U.S. In all of these visits, I've encountered players, coaches, and parents from different places with different goals. Sharing my experiences with those who are seeking to enhance their understanding of the royal game has helped me learn to be a better member of the chess community. These interactions have even resulted in several friendships, which I cherish a lot. Occasionally, I'll receive emails or notes from people thanking me for my advice and tips; sometimes, I'll send notes of gratitude or encouragement to emphasize the importance of a matter someone has shared with me. All in all, by meeting different people at scholastic tournaments, I believe I have become a better member of the chess community, and I find it fulfilling to share what I've learned with those who may benefit from it.

Now, before looking at some of the most interesting moments and games of this event, I would like to wish everyone a great 2022. I hope to meet some of you in the next big event. Let the chess community win!

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B30)
Pradhyumna Kothapalli (2183)
Adolfo Balderas (1967)
National K-12 Grade Ch., 12th grade (6), Orlando, 12.05.2021

PHOTO: ANA VIVAS

12

Prad Kothapali of North Carolina won the 12th grade championship, going 6–0 in the first six rounds. He then took a zero (!) point bye in the last round and was still named champion — with a half-point margin! Prad's victory from round six is a good indication of his classical chess style.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. c3 Qa5?!
Black wants to play for a win and thus he chooses a relatively poor move. The idea of this move is to prevent d2-d4, but the queen's placement on a5 is not otherwise justified.

4. Bc4 b5 5. Bd5 e6 6. Bxc6 dxc6 7. 0–0 Nf6 8. Re1?!
I think 8. d3 might have been more accurate, keeping Black from playing ... c5-c4 without any risk to his pawn structure.

8. ... c4 9. d4 cxd3 e.p. 10. Qxd3 Bb7 11. Bg5 Be7?!
This lets White trade dark-squared bishops. One idea is 11. ... h6 12. Bxf6 gxf6 13. Nbd2 Qb6, when Black should try to play ... Bf8-e7 followed by queenside castling. Without central counterplay, Black is simply worse.

12. Nbd2 Rd8 13. Qc2 Qb6 14. e5 Ng4 15. Ne4 Bxg5 16. Nexg5 Rd5 17. h3 Nh6 18. Ne4 c5
Prad achieved a winning position, but now he makes a mistake and almost lets his opponent off the hook.

19. Qc1?
White is winning after 19. Nd6+ Rxd6 20. exd6 Bxf3 21. gxf3 Qxd6 22. a4. His attack with his rooks on the open e-file and soon-to-be-open a-file is much faster than Black's attack on the kingside.

19. ... 0–0?
Black returns the favor. The fight is still on after 19. ... Nf5 20. Qg5 Rd7 21. Nfd2 h6 22. Qg4 h5 23. Qf4 c4.

20. Nf6+!
This simply wins an Exchange.

20. ... Kh8
Black is checkmated soon after 20. ... gxf6 21. Qxh6. One line is 21. ... Rxe5 22. Nxe5 fxe5 23. Re3 f5 24. Rg3+ Kf7 25. Rg7+ Ke8 26. Rd1 and mate is coming.

21. Nxd5 Bxd5 22. Qf4 Nf5 23. Nh4 Ne7 24. Re3 Qc7 25. Ree1 f5 26. b3!
After some hesitation, White is back on track. His idea is to open the position, enabling his rooks to infiltrate Black's position.

26. ... c4 27. bxc4 Bxc4 28. Nf3 Nd5 29. Qd4 h6 30. a4!
On track.

30. ... a6 31. axb5 Bxb5 32. Rec1 Nb6 33. Qb4 Rc8 34. Qd6!
When ahead on material, it's always good to consider trading.

34. ... Qxd6 35. exd6 Rd8 36. Ne5!
A nice cheapo.

36. ... Be8 37. c4, Black resigned.
Now 37. ... Rxd6 is met with 38. c5, and after 38. ... Rd5 White wins with 39. cxb6 followed by b6-b7. Prad played the final phase of the game almost flawlessly. This victory sealed the deal for top spot in the 12th grade section.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, NAJDORF VARIATION [B90]

Donald Johnson (2202)
IM Arthur Guo (2485)
National K-12 Grade Ch., 10th grade (5), Orlando, 12.04.2021

I am going to spend a bit more time showing games from the 10th grade, thanks to a number of interesting moments in this section, especially toward the end of the tournament. In fact, the games on the top two boards of this section lasted until the final few seconds of the tournament and the winners were decided at the last minute. This game was one of the most interesting ones from the event and has something for players to learn from at every level.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. h3 e5 7. Nb3 Be7 8. Be3 Be6 9. Qf3 0–0 10. 0–0–0 b5
In accordance with the latest theory.

11. g4 b4 12. Nd5 Nxd5 13. exd5 Bc8 14. Bd3 a5
This is still main line theory, and these moves have been played by top players and engines!

The alternative 14. … Nd7 15. Qe4 Nf6 16. Qxb4 a5 17. Qa4 Bd7 18. Bb5 Bxb5 19. Qxb5 a4, as in Parshin – Jendrian, ICCF 2019, leaves Black with compensation.

15. Nd2 Qc7
I think 15. … Nd7 makes more sense.

16. h4!?
A very logical novelty.

16. … Ba6 17. Bf5!?
White goes all in.

17. … a4 18. h5 Nd7
Here 18. … b3 is more in accordance with the spirit of the game. After 19. axb3 axb3 20. Nxb3 Bc4 21. Kd2 Ra2 22. Ke1 Rxb2 23. Qe4 we reach a crazy position!

19. g5 a3?
This may actually be the losing move. Better is 19. … b3 20. axb3 axb3 21. Nxb3 Bc4 and Black has sufficient compensation.

20. b3! Rac8??

(see diagram at top of next column)

It's hard to believe, but this is a losing blunder.

Perhaps Guo intended 20. … Qc3, but after 21. Ne4 Qb2+ 22. Kd2 Rac8 23. Rc1 Black's attack will fizzle out and he still has several threats to deal with. Still, this was the only way to play.

21. c4!!
This brilliant pawn sacrifice wins the game in style.

21. … bxc3 e.p. 22. Ne4 c2 23. Rd2
The c2-pawn is an obstacle for Black! It prevents any activity against White's king. Meanwhile, White's attack on the kingside is unstoppable.

23. … f6 24. g6 h6 25. Be6+ Kh8 26. Bxh6!
A great finish to a strong attack.

26. … f5 27. Bxg7+ Kxg7 28. h6+ Kh8 29. g7+ Kh7 30. Bxf5+ Kg8 31. Qg4, Black resigned.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, MOSCOW VARIATION [B51]

FM Gus Huston (2263)
Donald Johnson (2202)
National K-12 Grade Ch., 10th grade (6), Orlando, 12.04.2021

Donald Johnson scored a memorable round five win over IM Arthur Guo, but his fairy tale was short-lived as he went down in this game against another titled player, FM Gus Huston. With a draw in the last round against Arthur Guo, Gus won the title on tie-break over Jason Lu. Jason scored 6/7, finishing tied for the first. Arthur Guo and Donald Johnson finished with a 5½/7 tie for third.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Nd7 4. d4 cxd4 5. Qxd4 a6 6. Be2 Ngf6 7. 0–0 e5 8. Qe3 Nc5 9. Nc3 b5?
Better was 9. … Be7 10. h3 (*10. b3 Ng4 11. Qd2 Nf6* forces a draw because after *12. Bd3 0–0 13. Bb2 b5* the e4-pawn leaves White in a passive position) 10. … 0–0 11. b4 Ne6 12. Rd1 Qc7 and we reach a complex position.

10. b4! Ncd7 11. a4
A typical pawn strike, which addresses Black's premature pawn push on the queenside.

11. … bxa4 12. Nd2!
Excellent play. This knight is heading to a5.

12. … Bb7 13. Nc4 Bc8 14. Nd2 Bb7 15. Nc4 Qc7 16. Bb2?
White's dominance would show after 16. Rd1! Be7 17. b5! 0–0 18. b6 Qc8 19. Ba3.

16. … Be7 17. Rfd1 0–0 18. Na5 d5?!
The superior 18. … Rab8 would have kept the game complicated.

19. Nxd5 Bxd5 20. exd5 Bxb4 21. Nc4 Bc5 22. Qf3 e4 23. Qg3 Qd8?
Black should have tried 23. … Qxg3 24. hxg3 a5.

24. d6
Now White is completely dominant. There is very little Black can do about White's powerful b2-bishop and passed pawn on d6.

24. … Rb8 25. Rxa4 Nb6 26. Nxb6 Rxb6 27. Be5
Gus Huston is completely winning here. He gradually converted his advantage into a full point.

27. … g6 28. Qf4 Nd7 29. Bc3 Qb8 30. Qh6 f6 31. Rxe4 Rxd6 32. Re1 Ne5 33. Bc4+ Kh8 34. Rxe5 fxe5 35. Bxe5+ Rff6 36. Qf4 Qf8 37. h4 Kg7 38. g4 g5 39. hxg5 Bb6 40. gxf6+ Rxf6 41. Qg5+ Kh8 42. Qxf6+ Qxf6 43. Bxf6, mate.

LONDON OPENING, JOBAVA VARIATION (A45)

Nate Shuman (2118)
FM Maximillian Lu (2428)
National K-12 Grade Ch, 10th grade (7), 12.05.2021

Here's another game from the 10th grade championship. Nate Shuman played a nearly perfect game against a very strong opponent, and I think readers will find here an example of how mistakes in the opening flow can turn into difficult positions and eventually one-sided games.

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bf4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. e3 c6 5. h4 Bg7 6. Be2
White threatens to play h4–h5, so the next few moves are relatively forced.

6. … h5 7. Nf3 Bg4

The main line. Also worthy of consideration is 7. ... Bf5 8. Ne5 Nfd7 9. Nd3 Na6.

8. Ne5 Bxe2 9. Qxe2 Nfd7?!
I cannot recommend this move. Black needs to complete his development.

Better (and better scoring) is 9. ... Nbd7 10. 0–0–0 Rc8!? 11. f3 (in case of *11. Nxd7 Nxd7 12. e4* Black can try the interesting novelty *12. ... c5!?*) 11. ... b5 with counterplay. See Nabaty – Rodshtein, Czech Republic 2019.

10. 0–0–0 Qa5?
A step too far.

If Black wanted to play this way, he had to insert 10. ... Nxe5 11. dxe5 and only then 11. ... Qa5. After 12. e4 d4 13. Rxd4 Nd7 14. Kb1 Nxe5 15. Nd5! 0–0 16. Nxe7+ Kh7 17. Nf5 gxf5 18. Qxh5+ Kg8 19. Qxf5 White has real practical chances, but engines believe Black can hold this. For me, it's more evidence that Black's passive play with 9. ... Nfd7 led to difficulties too tricky to solve over the board.

11. e4! Nxe5 12. Bxe5 Bxe5 13. dxe5 d4?! 14. Rxd4 Qxe5 15. Qd2

Now White dominates the board. This position falls under the proverbial "the rest is a matter of technique" category, but White's execution makes it an exemplar for how to win won games!

As an aside, here's an idea for a training exercise: set this position up against the computer or a strong friend, and try to win with White. Then come back and see how Shuman did it.

15. ... Na6 16. f4 Qe6 17. Rd1 0–0 18. f5! Qf6 19. Qh6 Rae8 20. Ne2
Bringing all the toys to the party!

20. ... Qg7 21. Qg5 Kh7 22. g4
Here 22. Rd7 is more convincing. However, one component of good technique is sticking with an ongoing plan instead of switching to a 'better,' yet less obvious, winning combination.

22. ... hxg4 23. Qxg4 gxf5 24. Qxf5+ Qg6 25. Qf3
The job is done: Black's king safety is ruined forever.

25. ... Qf6 26. Qh3 Rg8 27. Rf1 Qh6+ 28. Kb1 f6 29. a3!
A return to precision. For a spell it seemed that White might rush into something, but this prophylactic move seals the deal. His rooks are ready for a final lift, and e4-e5 is in the offing. Please pay attention to the miserable placement of the a6–knight — it should have been traded off earlier!

29. ... Qh5 30. Nc3 Qg4 31. Qd3 Nc5 32. Qc4 Ne6 33. Rd7 Nc5 34. Qxc5!
Black tried his luck with some tactics, but with all of his strategic advantages, such cheapos are bound to work out in White's favor.

34. ... Qxd7 35. Qh5+ Kg7 36. Rg1+ Kf8 37. Qh6+ Kf7 38. Qh7+ Ke6 39. Rxg8
Now the rest is definitely a matter of technique.

39. ... Qd8 40. Qf5+ Kd6 41. Rxe8 Qxe8 42. h5 Qg8 43. h6 Qg1+ 44. Ka2 Qg8+ 45. b3 Qg2 46. Kb2 Qh2 47. h7 Qh6 48. Nb5+ cxb5 49. Qd5+ Kc7 50. Qg8 b4 51. axb4 Qd2 52. Qc4+, Black resigned.

COMEBACK KID

Brewington Hardaway (2342)
Vaseegaran Nandhakumar (2025)
National K-12 Grade Ch., 7th grade (7), Orlando, 12.05.2021

Brewington Hardaway won the seventh-grade championship in style. In this crucial last round game, there is a great moment where Brewington managed to recover from a mistake and secure the advantage. Making a quick comeback from an oversight is extremely hard during a chess game, and overcoming errors at such a young age promises a great future for Brewington.

20. ... e5 21. fxe5 Bh4 22. Red1?
It is difficult to see, but the queen and the rook on the a3-f8 diagonal are a hint that White temporarily gives up material with 22. b4!! Bxe1 23. Rxe1 axb4 24. Qe3 when Bb6-c5 followed by e5-e6 gives White a crucial advantage.

22. ... Qxe5?
As we will see, 22. ... h5 23. Bf3 and only then 23. ... Qxe5 was the right way to go.

23. Re1!
White realized that his dark-squared bishop is way more important than a rook, so he restarts his attack. If 23. ... Bxe1, White wins after 24. Rxe1 Qg3 25. Be6+ followed by Bb6-d4.

23. ... Qg7 24. a4 Bc4 25. Re6 Rab8 26. Bd4 Bf6 ...
White is now winning, but both players were in severe time pressure. The game went back and forth, but White remained in control for the most part and after Black resigned on move 137, he had the necessary win to clinch the title.

FRENCH DEFENSE, TARRASCH VARIATION [C06]

Kent Slate (1942)
Aniket Shukla (2073)
National K-12 Grade Ch., 8th grade (5), Orlando, 12.04.2021

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. Ngf3 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Bd3 Be7 8. 0–0 a5 9. Re1 cxd4 10. cxd4 Qb6 11. Qa4
This is a popular move, but it's not very good. Both 11. h3!? or 11. Nb1!? are interesting choices, and probably better.

11. ... g5!
Now ... g5-g4 is a threat.

12. Nb3 Qb4
Strong but not the best.

Black should have continued with 12. ... g4 13. Nfd2 Qb4 14. Bb5 (14. Qxb4 Nxb4 is just losing for White because of 15. Bb1 a4 16. Nc5 Nxc5 17. dxc5 Bxc5) 14. ... Qxa4 15. Bxa4 Nb4 16. Nc5 b5! and Ba4xb5 is not possible on account of ... Nb4-c2. White will soon lose at least a pawn.

13. Qxb4 Nxb4 14. Bb1?
A mistake, but White stands worse even after his best move, 14. Re3.

14. ... g4 15. Ng5 a4 16. Nc5 Nf8!

Individual winners, in tiebreak order (top to bottom, left to right): **K:** Winston Wang, Sriansh Katta; **1ST:** Vishnu Chetlapalli, Yang Yu; **2ND:** Tariq Yue; **3RD:** Ethan Guo; **4TH:** Megan Paragua, Connor Wang; **5TH:** Andrew Jiang; **6TH:** Eric Liu, Luca Chang

PHOTOS: ANDREW JIANG, COURTESY OF JIANG FAMILY; ALL OTHERS, ANA VIVAS

6TH (CONT.): Sahana Aravindakshan, Julian Colville, Oliver Boydell; **7TH:** Brewington Hardaway; **8TH:** Raymond Xu, Aniket Shukla, William Wu; **9TH:** Nico Chasin; **10TH:** Gus Huston, Jason Lu (not pictured); **11TH:** Raghav Venkat; **12TH:** Pradhyumna Kothapalli

A beautiful move. Now the knight on g5 is totally trapped!

17. Bd2 Nc6 18. Bc2 h6 19. Nxf7 Kxf7 20. Nxa4 Nxd4 21. Bd1 Nd7 22. Bc3 Nc6 23. b3 b5 24. Bxg4 h5 25. Bf3 bxa4 26. Bxd5 Bb7 27. f4 Nd8 28. Bc4 Bc5+ 29. Kf1 Rg8 30. g3 h4 31. b4 Ba7 32. Red1 Nb6 33. Be2 Nd5 34. Rxd5 Bxd5 35. g4 Nc6 36. Rd1 Rad8 37. b5 Nd4 38. Bxd4 Bxd4 39. Rxd4 Bg2+ 40. Kxg2 Rxd4 41. Kf3 Rd2 42. f5 Rxe2 43. Kxe2 Rxg4 44. Kd3 Rb4, White resigned.

Aniket tied for first with Raymond Xu in the eighth-grade section.

BENKO GAMBIT [A59]

FM Nico Werner Chasin (2380)
Avi Kaplan (2104)
National K-12 Grade Ch., 9th grade (5), Orlando, 12.04.2021

Nico Chasin was the top seed in the ninth-grade section. After a small hiccup in round two, he needed to win this game to regain at least the shared lead against then-leader and eventual runner-up Avi Kaplan.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5
The Benko Gambit: neither side is playing for a draw!

4. cxb5 a6 5. bxa6 Bxa6 6. Nc3 d6 7. e4 Bxf1 8. Kxf1 g6 9. g3 Bg7 10. Kg2 0–0 11. Nf3 Nbd7 12. Re1 Ra6 13. e5
I am not sure I like this move.

The best move for White is 13. a4 according to current practice. The idea is to safely post a knight on b5 where it blocks a lot of Black's pressure on the open a- and b-files.

13. ... Nxe5 14. Nxe5 dxe5 15. Rxe5 Rd6 16. Qf3 Nd7?
Correct is the brave 16. ... e6! 17. dxe6 fxe6 18. Bg5 Qd7 19. Rxc5 Nd5 and Black's many threats are enough compensation for the sacrificed pawns.

But it is one thing to write this sitting in my room using the engine; it is a totally different task to find all these moves over the board!

17. Re1 Bxc3?
A mistake that can't be fixed. Instead 17. ... Ne5 18. Qe2 e6 19. Bf4 Rxd5 20. Nxd5 Qxd5+ 21. f3 Nd3 would have kept Black in the game.

18. bxc3 Nb6

19. c4! Nxc4 20. Bh6!
Accurate play. After 20. Qc3?! Qa5 a big part of White's attack is gone.

20. ... Rf6
White's idea is that 20. ... Re8? is met with 21. Qc3! attacking the c4-knight and threatening mate on g7.

21. Qd3 Nb2 22. Qe4 c4 23. Bxf8 Kxf8 ...
White's advantage is decisive. Nico Chasin went on to win this game and took the ninth-grade title after winning his remaining games.

SETTING A TRAP

Vijay Anandh (1885)
Megan Paragua (2014)
National K-12 Grade Ch., 4th grade (7), Orlando, 12.05.2021

I saved the best story for the last: Megan Paragua was the only girl to finish first in her section, prevailing on tiebreak over Connor Wang after both players ended with 6½/7. In this final round game, Megan had a tricky and miraculous escape at the end after her opponent, Vijay Anandh, outplayed her in the middlegame and early stage of the endgame.

18. ... dxc4 19. Nxc4 Nd5 20. Nfe5 Nef6 21. Nd3 Ng4?
This is a loss of tempo. I'm guessing that Megan must have missed her opponent's simple response.

22. h3! Ngf6 23. dxc5 Bxc5 24. Nxc5 bxc5 25. Qxa5 Qxa5 26. Nxa5 Nxe3 27. Rxd8+ Rxd8 28. Bxf6!
In the commentary room I claimed that it was impossible for White to find the following sequence in time pressure. Guess what? I was wrong!

28. ... gxf6 29. Bb7! Bxb7 30. Nxb7 Rd2!
The only meaningful practical attempt.

31. a5?
Winning is 31. Nxc5 because after ... Rd2-g2+ and Rg2xg3 White trades the rooks with Rc1-g1.

31. ... Ra2 32. Rxc5 Rg2+ 33. Kh1 Ra2 34. b4 Nf1?
Black has a brilliant draw after 34. ... Ra1+ 35. Kh2 h5 36. b5 and now the fantastic 36. ... Rf1!! means that White can't prevent perpetual rook checks on f2 and f1.

35. Rc3 Nd2 36. b5 Ne4
I called this move pointless in the commentary room, but this fourth-grader had a cunning idea in mind that even fooled this old grandmaster!

37. Rb3??
And here it is: a repetition trap! Of course 37. Rc8+ Kg7 38. b6 would have been just winning.

37. ... Ra1+!
Now it is a perpetual!

38. Kg2 Ra2+
Here Kg2-f1 or Kg2-f3 are not possible because they both run into a fork with ... Ne4-d2+!

39. Kh1 Ra1+, draw. ◆

For up-to-date chess news and analysis, check out ***Chess Life Online*** at ***uschess.org/clo*** on a regular basis.

REMEMBERING THE 1996 Grades

Or, how a chess game got me into Princeton.

BY **MACAULEY PETERSON**

THERE ARE MOMENTS IN A CHESS PLAYing career that stick around in memory. A triumphant winning move, a cringeworthy blunder, or a devilish swindle. Some are memorable in pure chess terms, while others stand out more for their sporting importance. This one belongs to the last camp.

In the K-12 Grade National Championship of 1996 — 25 years ago — which took place in Terre Haute, Indiana, I scored what remains to this day (sad to say) my single best tournament result: a clutch last-round win made me 12th Grade co-champion — which I semi-seriously say got me into Princeton, because college admissions tends to rate national recognition in sport more highly than, say, local or state honors.

In truth, it's not as impressive as it sounds. The Grade Nationals in those days was considerably weaker than the longer-running High School Nationals, and many of the country's top players routinely skipped it.

There was an air of coming full circle about it, though. A Terre Haute gymnasium was the site of my first National Championship as a second grader — the Spring Nationals of 1987. The Grade Nationals wasn't invented until the mid-90s and our team from Hunter was the heavy favorite.

My teammate, Jon Wolff was the number two seed and he and the top seeded Robert Sinn, who had each given up a draw earlier, were paired in the last round. That left me on board two facing Matthew Bluestone with black.

After nine moves in a Sicilian Dragon, Yugoslav Attack, we reached the following position:

Here the main line is 9. ... Bd7, but my coach, Anatoly Trubman, had shown me the more offbeat **9. ... Nd7**. The idea is that after the natural **10. O-O-O Nde5 11. Bb3 Na5,** Black will grab the bishop pair — and the dark-squared bishop with ... Ne5-c4 if White allows it. But there's also a hidden trap.

Bluestone moved. I returned to the board and exhaled. With **12. Bh6?** he had taken the bait: play continued **12. ... Nec4 13. Qg5 e5!** and this same position occurred in Moore – Trubman, U.S. Open, 1992, which is how I came to this point of serendipity. Of course, 14. Qxd8 hangs the h6-bishop with check, and 14. Nde2 allows 14. ... Bf6 15.Qg3 Bh4 trapping the queen.

In the game there was some work left to do, but I managed to keep my cool and bring home the full point, giving me a score of five out of six.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Robert Sinn played actively through college at the University of Florida, and later was Florida state champion in 2004. I found him on LinkedIn and gave him a call. He worked as a chess coach full-time for a while, and is now an independent investment advisor.

"Even though I don't play much anymore, chess has had a really instrumental role in my life in terms of networking," he told me. "By teaching children and helping them learn and grow and advance their brains, their parents gained respect for me."

Jonathan Wolff studied computer science at Harvard, and is a professional software engineer and entrepreneur with his own company, Isentropy. He lives in Germany and remains a lifelong friend.

David Isaacson studied economics at Princeton, earned a J.D. from Yale, and is now a Partner at Cyrus D. Mehta & Partners, PLLC where he works on immigration and nationality law matters.

Mark Kurtzman and IM David Goodman are both chess professionals and educators in New York. I enjoy visiting with them whenever I'm in town.

After a stint in IT, film and video post-Princeton, I found a niche in the chess world as a content creator — until 2020, when I studied Law and Business at Bucerius Law School in Hamburg. I'm currently Senior Editor at Blockworks, a New York-based financial media company focusing on digital assets, and a VP at Play Magnus Group where I help with a variety of legal and business operations areas.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SUBJECT

All hail the Pan-Am champs! Congratulations to the Saint Louis University-A team and their coach, GM Alejandro Ramirez. Photo courtesy Bill Simmons.

THOSE BRILLIANT BIL

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY WINS THE 2022 PAN-AMS.

BY **WGM JENNIFER YU**

IN A SIGN OF RETURNING normalcy, the 2022 edition of the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship was held over-the-board after the COVID-19 pandemic forced the "Pan-Ams" online for the past two years.

This year's event, held from January 6-9 in Dulles, Virginia, saw 57 teams and 251 individual players from 35 schools descend upon the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott for six rounds of action over four days. With players arriving from far-flung corners of the country, Capital Area Chess handled the challenges of organizing the event brilliantly. Despite omicron cases spiking across the country, preventing numerous players from attending and forcing several teams to reorganize their lineups at the last minute, the tournament came off without a hitch.

LLIKENS!

The format for the Pam-Ams remains the same every year: each team in the Pan-Ams consists of four to six students from the same school, with four boards squaring off in team versus team matches. Although the ultimate goal is to win the tournament, another reason for the popularity of the Pan-Ams is that the top four teams advance to the Final Four Championship, a separate event — more colloquially known as the "President's Cup" — held later in the year that determines the national collegiate champion. One interesting note: while some schools send multiple teams, only one team from each college or university is allowed to qualify for the Final Four, although the team can then be reworked before the Final Four begins.

Going into the event, the top of the cross-table was stacked with teams from chess powerhouses —prestigious chess programs

that recruit titled players and provide scholarships. These include Webster University, Saint Louis University (SLU), The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), and Texas Tech University. Their advantages in strength and numbers tend to pay off — over the past few years, teams from these strong schools usually qualify for the Final Four. Still, some schools without scholarship chess teams, including Yale University and especially The University of Chicago (UChicago), can stand and fight against these giants of American college chess.

This was my first Pan-Am, and I played for Harvard along with Prateek Pinisetti, Tianming Xie, and James Toliver. We decided to send a team at the last minute, but I was grateful for the opportunity to play in a college team tournament. It's a unique experience — I've played in team events before, but there was something particularly special about competing with my classmates against schools from across the country. I felt a real sense of camaraderie as students socialized between rounds. Plus, it was great catching up with friends I haven't seen in years and discovering where they ended up for college.

You could say that all the teams brought their "A-games," as the four teams that ultimately advanced to the Final Four were SLU-A, UTD-A, Texas Tech-A, and Webster-A. SLU-A enjoyed smooth sailing for the entire event. They were the only team to finish with a perfect 6/6 score, winning the tournament by a full point over UTD-A. However, with 57 teams participating in the event, the expectation was that there would be plenty of exciting matches and surprising results. In this respect, the 2022 Pan-Ams did not disappoint.

The SLU-B team placed 10th overall and took top female team honors.

ROUND ONE

The first round saw a majority of 4-0 match sweeps, as the rating differences between teams were quite large. There were no surprises among the top team battles, but individual kudos are in order to WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet (UTRGV-B), who earned a near-400 point upset against GM Cemil Can Ali Marandi (SLU-A). After snatching an Exchange, Ouellet showed good technique and converted flawlessly.

QUEEN'S PAWN GAME (D02)

GM Cemil Can Ali Marandi (2620)
WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet (2165)
Pan-American Intercollegiate (1), 01.06.2022

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c3 c5 4. dxc5 g6 5. g3 Bg7 6. Bg2 0–0 7. 0–0 a5 8. c4 Na6 9. Nc3 dxc4 10. Qxd8 Rxd8 11. Ne5 Nxc5 12. Be3 Nfe4 13. Nxe4 Nxe4 14. Nxc4 Nd6 15. Nb6 Rb8 16. Nd5 Be6 17. Nxe7+ Kf8 18. Nd5 Bxb2 19. Rab1 Nc4 20. Bc5+ Kg7 21. e4 Bxd5 22. exd5 Be5 23. f4 Bd6 24. Bd4+ Kg8 25. Rb5 Bb4 26. Bc5 Na3 27. Rxb4 axb4 28. Bxb4 Nc4 29. Re1 Rd7 30. g4 Nb6 31. d6 Nc4 32. Re7 Rbd8 33. Bxb7 Nxd6 34. Rxd7 Rxd7 35. Bf3 Nc8 36. Bc5 Rc7 37. Bf2 Rc4 38. f5 gxf5 39. gxf5 Nd6 40. f6 Ne8 41. Be2 Rc1+ 42. Kg2 Rc2 43. Kf3 Rxa2 44. Bd4 Ra4 45. Be5 h6 46. Bf4 Nxf6 47. Bxh6 Kh7 48. Bf4 Nd5 49. Bc1 Kg6 50. Kg3 f5 51. h4 Nf6 52. Bf3 Rc4 53. Bb2 Nh5+ 54. Kh3 Rb4 55. Bc1 Rb3 56. Kg2 Nf6 57. Bf4 Rb4 58. Bg5 Nh5 59. Kh3 Rb3 60. Kg2 Ng7 61. Bf4 Ne6 62. Be5 Rb5 63. Bc3 Nf4+ 64. Kf2 Nd5 65. Be5 Nf6 66. Bf4 Rb4 67. Bg5 Ne4+ 68. Bxe4 fxe4 69. Bd2 Rb3 70. Ke2 Rh3 71. Be1 Kf5 72. Bf2 Kf4, White resigned.

Congratulations are also in order to the 40th-ranked University of Arkansas which, with an average rating of 1288, held a draw against the 12th seed and 2214-rated University of California, Berkeley. Two other impressive draws were earned by 44th seed University of California San Diego against 16th seed University of Pennsylvania-A (UPenn-A) and 49th ranked CalTech against 21st seed UChicago-B.

ROUND TWO

Again, the top teams avoided match upsets, but a few individual boards managed

PHOTO: COURTESY BILL SIMMONS

to hold draws against much stronger opposition. Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) first board, Howard Zhong, drew against Webster's GM Lazaro Bruzon Batista, a result that was impressive not only because of the 400 point rating difference, but also because Zhong was defending down a pawn for the majority of the game.

ENGLISH OPENING (A28)

GM Lazaro Bruzon Batista (2712)
Howard Zhong (2302)
Pan-American Intercollegiate (2), 01.07.2022

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. a3 d5 5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. Qc2 a6 7. Nxe5 Nxe5 8. Qe4 Nxc3 9. Qxe5+ Be7 10. dxc3 0–0 11. Bf4 Bd6 12. Qd4 Bxf4 13. Qxf4 c5 14. e3 Qb6 15. Rb1 Be6 16. Bc4 Rad8 17. 0–0 Bxc4 18. Qxc4 Rd2 19. b4 cxb4 20. Rxb4 Qc6 21. Qxc6 bxc6 22. g4 h6 23. h4 Rfd8 24. Rfb1 Ra2 25. a4 g5 26. hxg5 hxg5 27. Rb8 Rxb8 28. Rxb8+ Kg7 29. Rb4 f6 30. Kg2 Kf7 31. Kg3 Ke6 32. f4 gxf4+ 33. exf4 a5 34. Re4+ Kd5 35. Rd4+ Ke6 36. f5+ Ke5 37. Kf3 Ra3 38. Re4+ Kd5 39. Re6 Rxc3+ 40. Kf4 Rc4+ 41. Kg3 Rxa4 42. Rxf6 Ra1 43. Kf4 a4 44. Rf8 a3 45. Ra8 a2 46. Kg5 Kc4 47. f6 c5 48. f7 Rf1 49. Kg6 Kb3 50. Rb8+ Kc3 51. Ra8 Kb2 52. Rb8+ Kc3 53. Ra8 Kb2, draw.

I had chances against GM Nikolas Theodorou from SLU-A, but in a time scramble, we ended up drawing. The Fighting Illini did themselves proud with Deniz Gulecyuz from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champlain (UIUC-A) splitting the point with GM Razvan Preotu (UTD-B), while Kevin Ho (UIUC-B) drew with IM Harsha Raja from the University of Missouri. Although our individual efforts weren't enough to prevent our respective teams from losing our match, every board point scored factors into tiebreaks, which can become critical in an event where only the top four teams qualify. With six teams tied for the fourth spot in this year's Pan-Ams, it was a reminder for future competitors to take nothing for granted.

ROUND THREE

The rating gap between teams began to diminish in round three, and this was reflected in the results. Top seeded Webster-A was held to a draw by UTD-B as GM Preotu Razvan (UTD-B) and GM Eyal Grinberg (UTD-B) beat GM Lazaro Bruzon Batista (Webster-A) and GM Jose Martinez Alcantara (Webster-A) respectively. Meanwhile, on board two, SLU-A overtook Webster B by a score of 2½- 1½, leaving them as one of four teams with perfect scores after three rounds. Also at three points were UTD-A, Texas Tech-A, and UChicago-A. UTD-A beat Yale 3-1, while Texas Tech swept the University of Maryland (UMD) 4-0.

Outrated on every board, SLU-B put up a good fight against UChicago-A, with the score ending 2½-1½ in favor of UChicago. Notable was FM Gabriela Antova's (SLU-B) upset against GM Praveen Balakrishnan (UChicago-A) after taking advantage of an endgame slip. Antova's stellar performance throughout the tournament earned her two individual prizes: first place on board two and top female player. It should be noted that the SLU-B team was the only team in the tournament that consisted of all female players. Needless to say, they won the Top Female Team award before the tournament even started!

ROUND FOUR

With three rounds in the books, the four remaining teams with perfect scores consisted entirely of titled players. Both matches — SLU-A versus Texas Tech-A, and UTD-A versus UChicago-A — were tight battles, each featuring three draws and a decisive game on the fourth board. SLU-A came out on top against Texas Tech-A when GM Benjamin Bok converted an instructive rook endgame after enjoying a nice positional advantage against IM Samuel Schmakel for the majority of the game.

PHOTO: COURTESY ANGIE LE

What is going on in this round three game between Dex Webster (left) and IM David Brodsky (right)? Why is IM Aaron Grabinsky (center) so befuddled? Send *wrong answers only* to *letters@uschess.org* and we'll print the best responses!

ENGLISH OPENING (A20)

GM Benjamin Bok (2668)
IM Samuel Schmakel (2511)
Pan-American Intercollegiate (4), 01.08.2022

1. c4 e5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 c6 4. Nf3 e4 5. Nd4 Qb6 6. e3 d5 7. Nc3 Be7 8. cxd5 cxd5 9. d3
Putting pressure on the center, and creating an isolated pawn.

9. ... exd3 10. Qxd3 0–0 11. Qb5
White doesn't mind the queen trade: the black queen is currently Black's most active piece.

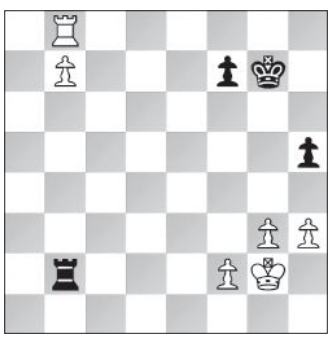
11. ... Rd8 12. Qxb6 axb6 13. 0–0 Nc6 14. Rd1 Bg4 15. Nde2 Bb4 16. h3 Bf5 17. Bd2 d4
A natural move to get rid of the weak iso-

lated pawn, but it also opens the position further, allowing White to put pressure on Black's other weaknesses, such as the doubled b-pawns.

18. exd4 Nxd4 19. Nxd4 Rxd4 20. Be1 Rxd1 21. Rxd1 h5 22. a3 Bxc3 23. Bxc3
Defending the b7-pawn is a problem.

23. ... Be4
After the alternative 23. ... Ne4 24. Rd5 Bg6 25. Bd4 the other b-pawn is under fire!

24. Bxf6 Bxg2 25. Kxg2 gxf6 26. Rd6 b5 27. Rxf6 b4 28. axb4 Kg7 29. Rb6 Ra2 30. Rxb7 Rxb2 31. b5 Rb3 32. b6 Kg6 33. Rb8 Kg7 34. b7 Rb2



In order to win positions with a rook in front of the passed pawn, endgame theory states that a passed f-pawn needs to be formed. Bok instructively shows how it should be done.

35. g4 hxg4 36. hxg4 Rb5 37. f4 f6 38. f5 Rb2+ 39. Kf3 Rb3+ 40. Ke2 Rb2+ 41. Kd3 Rb3+ 42. Kc2 Rb6 43. g5 fxg5 44. f6+ Kxf6 45. Rf8+ Ke5 46. b8=Q+ Rxb8 47. Rxb8 Ke4 48. Kd2 Kf3 49. Ke1, Black resigned.

Another rook endgame between IM Rahul Srivatshav Peddi (UTD-A) and IM Kapil Chandran (UChicago-A) secured a vital win for the Texans.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT, CATALAN VARIATION (E01)

IM Kapil Chandran (2445)
IM Rahul Srivatshav Peddi (2482)
Pan-American Intercollegiate (4), 01.08.2022

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6 5. g3 dxc4 6. a4
This is not a very common move, as it gives Black time to strike in the center and enter a favorable endgame, as happened here.

More common is 6. Bg2 Nbd7 (note that *6. ... c5* doesn't work here due to *7. Qa4+ Nc6 8. Ne5*) 7. 0–0.

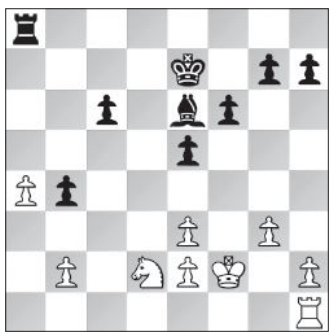
6. ... c5 7. dxc5 Qxd1+ 8. Nxd1 Nc6
The weaknesses wrought in White's queenside pawn structure by the a2-a4 advance are apparent.

9. Bg2 Bxc5 10. Be3 Bb4+ 11. Bd2 Nd5 12. Rc1 a5
Already it's a little awkward for White, who can't untangle his pieces without making some sort of concession.

13. Ne3
Worse is 13. Rxc4 Nb6.

13. ... Nxe3 14. fxe3 e5 15. Rxc4
I think that 15. Bxb4 axb4 16. Nd2 is a good try to create counterplay, redeploying the white knight and simultaneously eyeing Black's weak squares.

15. ... Be6 16. Rc1 f6 17. Bxb4 axb4 18. Nd2 Ke7 19. Bxc6 Rhc8 20. Kf2 Rxc6 21. Rxc6 bxc6



White just has too many weaknesses.

22. Rc1
If instead White tries to protect the pawn with 22. b3, Black's rook enters the game with 22. ... Rd8. Now if 23. Ke1 we have the rook lift 23. ... Rd5 followed by ... Rd5-c5 and infiltration down the c-file. White is doomed by his numerous pawn weaknesses and passive pieces.

22. ... Rxa4 23. Rxc6 Ra2 24. Rc7+ Kf8 25. Nc4 b3 26. e4 h5 27. Ke3 Bxc4 28. Rxc4 Rxb2 29. Rb4 Rb1 30. Rb7 b2 31. Rb8+

PHOTO: COURTESY BILL SIMMONS

Ke7 32. Rb7+ Kd6 33. Rb8 Kc5 34. Rc8+ Kb4 35. Rb8+ Kc3 36. Rc8+ Kb3 37. Rb8+ Kc2 38. Rc8+ Kd1 39. Rb8 Ke1
There are no more checks, but White plays for one last trick...

40. Kf3 g5 41. h3 Kf1 42. g4 h4 43. e3 Kg1 44. Rxb2 Rf1+!
Stalemate avoided!

45. Ke2 Rf2+, White resigned.

UTRGV-A upset Webster-A by a score of 3-1. There was a curious similarity between both the individual Webster board losses, as Webster's GMs Lazaro Bruzon Batista and Benjamin Gledura threw everything plus the kitchen sink at their UTRGV-A opponents, only to see their attacks come up short. Now only two teams, SLU-A and UTD-A, remained perfect after four rounds. UTD-B joined UTRGV-A with 3½/4 while 10 other teams followed at 3/4.

ROUND **FIVE**

SLU-A repeated their success from the previous round to remain unblemished. GM Bok again showed strong conversion skills against IM Brian Escalante while the other boards all held, giving SLA-A the 2½-1½ win over UTD-A. UTRGV-A defeated UTD-B by a score of 3-1, giving them second place at 4½/5 heading into the final round.

There were few surprises in the pairings between the teams at three points, as UTD-A, Texas Tech-A, UChicago-A, Webster-B, Yale, and SLU-B won their matches without much resistance. So, going into the last round, seven teams, including UTD-B, were tied with 4/5. With four places in the Final Four up for grabs, all eyes (and not a few Excel spreadsheets!) were focused on the various tiebreak calculations.

ROUND **SIX**

The fateful match between SLU-A and UTRGV-A saw the Billikens continue their curious march to victory. Three solid draws combined with GM Nikolas Theodorou's key victory against GM Ulvi Bajarani made for a final match victory for SLU-A by a score of 2½-1½. (Talk about consistency!) With this final match victory, SLU-A won the 2022 Pan-Ams with a perfect 6/6, punching their tickets to the President's Cup!

PHOTO: COURTESY ANGIE LE (THEODOROU), SLCC / LENNART OOTES (ONISCHUK)

GM Nikolas Theodorou (SLU-A) considers his options during his key final round matchup with GM Ulvi Bajarani (UTRGV-A).

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E94)
GM Ulvi Bajarani (2483)
GM Nikolas Theodorou (2664)
Pan-American Intercollegiate (6), 01.09.2022

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 0–0 6. Nf3 Na6 7. 0–0 e5 8. Bg5 h6 9. Be3 Qe7
More common is 9. ... Ng4 10. Bc1 c6.

10. dxe5 dxe5 11. Nd5 Qd8 12. Nxf6+ Qxf6 13. h3 b6
Black's pieces look slightly awkward here, but looks can be deceiving! His bishop is coming to b7, where it will pressure the white center, and the rooks will quickly get to the open file. The a6-knight can be repositioned after moving the c-pawn, when ... Na6-c7-e6 is in the cards. White really needs to counter Black's long-term ideas.

14. Qd2
One possibility is 14. c5 Nxc5 15. Bxc5 bxc5 16. Qc2. It might look strange to trade off the active white bishop for Black's sidelined knight, but White gets some weaknesses to target in return. And as we see in the game, the knight can become bothersome very quickly.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ANAND Dommalapati for organizing the first national collegiate event in two years. Many doubted whether we should run the tournament this year. Several teams dropped out in the days before the event because of the omicron surge, but Anand and his team did an amazing job to create the safest possible environment for the participants. I also would like to thank US Chess for providing some guidance for the event, and special thanks to the chief tournament director Mike Hoffpauir and all other TDs for great and diligent work. Last but not least, thank you to SIG and US Chess Trust for their generous sponsorship. — GM Alex Onischuk, Chair, US Chess College Committee

US Chess President and chief tournament director Mike Hoffpauir (left) and IA/IO Anand Dommalapati (right) check the pairings one last time. Other key staff included IA Peter Giannatos, FA Martha Underwood, FA Judit Sztaray, Fateme Nikseresht, and GP Sinha.

14. ... Kh7 15. b4 Rd8 16. Qc3 c5 17. a3 Bb7 18. Nd2 Qd6

(see diagram top of next column)

How the tables have turned! Now it's White's pieces that have to take awkward positions defending the weaknesses.

19. b5 Nc7 20. Qc2 Ne6 21. Rfd1 Qe7 22. a4 a5
Stopping White from getting any queenside counterplay.

23. Rac1 h5
Preparing to swap Black's worst-placed piece for White's good bishop!

24. Bd3 Bh6 25. Nf3 Qf6 26. Bf1 Nd4 27. Nxd4 Bxe3 28. fxe3 exd4 29. Qf2
Giving up a pawn, but the fact of the matter is that there is no good way for White to deal with the center.

After 29. exd4 Rxd4 30. Bd3 Rad8 White is under too much pressure, and material will start dropping soon.

29. ... Qxf2+ 30. Kxf2 Bxe4
More accurate is 30. ... dxe3+ 31. Kxe3 Kg7 as it removes some of White's counterplay chances while retaining long-term pressure on the e4-pawn.

31. exd4 Rxd4 32. Rxd4 cxd4 33. c5 bxc5 34. Rxc5 Rd8 35. Ke1?
Putting the bishop in front of the pawn with 35. Be2 d3 36. Bd1 is preferable, as it leaves the king free and gives White thoughts of pushing his own b-pawn.

35. ... h4?!
Slightly better is 35. ... f5, stopping any White counterplay on the seventh rank.

36. Kd2?
White holds after 36. Rc7 Kg7 37. Re7 Bc2 38. Bc4.

36. ... f5
Now White is practically in *zugzwang*.

37. Rc6
After 37. Rc7+ Kh6 38. Rc1 Kg5 the king infiltrates.

37. ... Bxc6 38. bxc6 d3, White resigned.

Two of the remaining three qualification spots were claimed by UTD-A and Texas Tech-A via their respective victories of 3-1 over SLU-B and 2½-1½ over Yale. Both teams finished the event with 5/6, with UTD-A taking second place on tiebreaks.

With the draw between Webster-B and UChicago-A, who both entered the round at 4/5, the race for the fourth spot was open to the teams at 3½/5. Webster-A defeated Mizzou 3½-½ and UTD-B defeated Harvard 3-1. Together, with UTRGV-A's remaining at 4½/6 after the loss to SLU-A, there was now a five-way tie for fourth! After doing the math, Webster-A came out on top on tiebreaks, handing them the bid to the Final Four.

This year's Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship is over, but the fight for the national college title isn't finished yet! The Final Four matchup between SLU, UTD, Texas Tech, and Webster will be held (at the time of writing) on April 2-3 at Texas Tech.

PHOTO: COURTESY BILL SIMMONS

PAN-AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP AT A GLANCE

JANUARY 6-9, 2022 | DULLES, VIRGINIA

TEAM RESULTS

1ST: Saint Louis University-A, 6/6. **2ND-3RD:** Texas Tech-A, U. Texas at Dallas-A, 5/6. **4TH-8TH:** Webster-A (advances to Final Four on tiebreaks), UT Rio Grande Valley-A, U Chicago-A, Webster-B, UT Dallas-B, 4½/6. **9TH-16TH:** Yale, Saint Louis University-B, U Virginia-A, UC San Diego, U Maryland, MIT, UIUC-A, Washington U-A. 4/6. **TOP DIVISION II TEAM:** U Virginia-A. **TOP DIVISION III TEAM:** Georgia Tech-B. **TOP DIVISION IV TEAM:** UT Austin-C. **TOP DIVISION V TEAM:** UNC Chapel Hill-B. **TOP DIVISION VI TEAM:** UC San Diego. **TOP 4-YEAR SMALL COLLEGE:** CalTech. **TOP ALL-FEMALE TEAM:** Saint Louis University-B. **TOP MIXED DOUBLES TEAM:** UT Rio Grande Valley-B. **TOP TEAM UPSET:** UC San Diego.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

1ST BOARD: 1st: FM Jason Shi (CalTech). 2nd: FM Dachey Lin (UTA-A). 3rd: GM Awonder Liang (UChicago-A). **2ND BOARD:** 1st: FM Gabriela Antova (SLU-B). 2nd: GM John Burke (Webster-B). 3rd: GM Benjamin Gledura (Webster-A). **3RD BOARD:** 1st: GM Emilio Cordova (Webster-B). 2nd: IM Viktor Matviishen (TTU-A). 3rd: Arman Baradaran (UCB). **4TH BOARD:** 1st: GM Benjamin Bok (SLU-A). 2nd: Karthik Sai Padmanabhan (UPenn-A). 3rd: James Wei (UIUC-A). **ALTERNATE:** 1st: William Graif (UChicago-A). 2nd: Oliver Heggli-Nonay (UChicago-B). 3rd: Jesse Dill (GATech-B). **TOP FEMALE:** 1st: FM Gabriela Antova (SLU-B). 2nd: FM Thalia Cervantes (SLU-B). 3rd: WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet (UTRGV-B). **TOP UPSET:** 1st: Kevin Gu (MOS&T). 2nd: Dhruvan Gopinath (UUtah-B). 3rd: Elias O'Malley (UIUC-C).

For complete results, visit *www.capitalareachess.com/PanAm2022*

MAKE YOUR MOVE

BY **FM CARSTEN HANSEN**

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLES ARE FROM ALL TAKEN FROM THE 2021 World Rapid and Blitz Championships in Warsaw, Poland.

The puzzles start from easy and gradually move toward being difficult. It is worth noting that "easy" is a relative term. If you are new to the game, the easy ones can also represent a challenge.

Try first to solve the puzzle before reading the text at the bottom of the page. If unsuccessful, play through the solution, but return to the puzzle in a few weeks to see if you can now solve it. That way you gradually expand your tactical vision, and it will be more likely that you will spot tactics as they occur in your own games. Whatever you do, do not use an engine to solve the puzzles. You will only cheat yourself out of improving your game. Answers on page 59.

TACTIC I.

WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC II.

BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC III.

BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC IV.

BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC V.

WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC VI.

WHITE TO MOVE

TACTIC VII.

BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC VIII.

BLACK TO MOVE

TACTIC IX.

WHITE TO MOVE

Position 1: DISTRACT THE DEFENDER
Position 2: OVERBURDENED DEFENDER
Position 3: PIN
Position 4: FIRST STEP, THEN KICK
Position 5: FIRST KICK, THEN WHACK
Position 6: MAKING ROOM
Position 7: TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PINS
Position 8: HEAVY ATTACKERS
Position 9: KEY IN THE RIGHT HOLE

IN THE NEWS

BY **JOHN HARTMANN**

Christopher Yoo Breaks 2500 FIDE, Becomes "GM-elect"

It was a very happy birthday indeed for IM Christopher Yoo.

With GM three norms under his belt — the Memorial Day 2021 CCCSA GM Norm Invitational, the Labor Day 2021 CCCSA GM Norm Invitational, and the 2021 U.S. Masters — Yoo found himself five rating points shy of the 2500 barrier required to become a grandmaster after his performance at the U.S. Masters in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Yoo's father, Young-Kyu Yoo, asked Facebook friends to suggest possible events where Christopher might be able to hunt down those five final points, allowing him to become a "GM-elect" before his 15th birthday. William Graif suggested the Edward Lasker Memorial / Marshall Chess Club Championship, held over two weekends at the historic Marshall Chess Club in New York City.

Only able to play the first weekend due to scheduling conflicts, the pressure was on: could Yoo avoid any "Botez gambits" and pick up those five rating points in just five rounds?

Scoring 4½/5, including a win over two FMs and a draw with GM Brandon Jacobson, Yoo appears to have gained 5.2 rating points, putting him just over the 2500 mark, and earning him the GM title at 14 years and 51 weeks — subject to FIDE confirmation at the time of writing.

Here are two games from the event. His win gainst FM Konstanin Dolgister features a tactical flurry worth of a new grandmaster, while his victory against Zachary Tannenbaum pushed him over 2500.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, ALAPIN VARIATION (B22)

IM Christopher Yoo (2596)
FM Konstantin Dolgitser (2202)
Marshall Championship (2), New York, 12.12.2021

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. c3 Nf6 4. e5 Nd5 5. d4 cxd4 6. cxd4 d6 7. Bc4 b6 8. 0–0 Bb7 9. Nc3 Nxc3 10. bxc3 Be7 11. d5 dxe5 12. dxe6 f6 13. Qc2 Qc8 14. Bb3 0–0 15. Nh4 Na6 16. Rd1 Nc5 17. Nf5 Re8

(see diagram top of next column)

18. Rd7! Be4
Not 18. … Nxd7?? 19. exd7+, winning.

19. Nxe7+ Rxe7 20. Qe2 Qe8 21. Ba3! Bc6 22. Bxc5 bxc5 23. Qa6 Be4
Here 23. … Rc8? loses to 24. Rxe7.

24. f3 Bf5 25. Qb7 Rxe6
There's another removing the guard tactics after 25. … Kf8? 26. Rxe7 Qxe7 27. Qxa8+.

26. Bxe6+ Bxe6 27. Rxg7+ Kf8 28. Rxh7, Black resigned.

TWO KNIGHTS DEFENSE (C58)

IM Christopher Yoo (2596)
Zachary Tanenbaum (2339)
Marshall Championship (5), New York, 12.13.2021

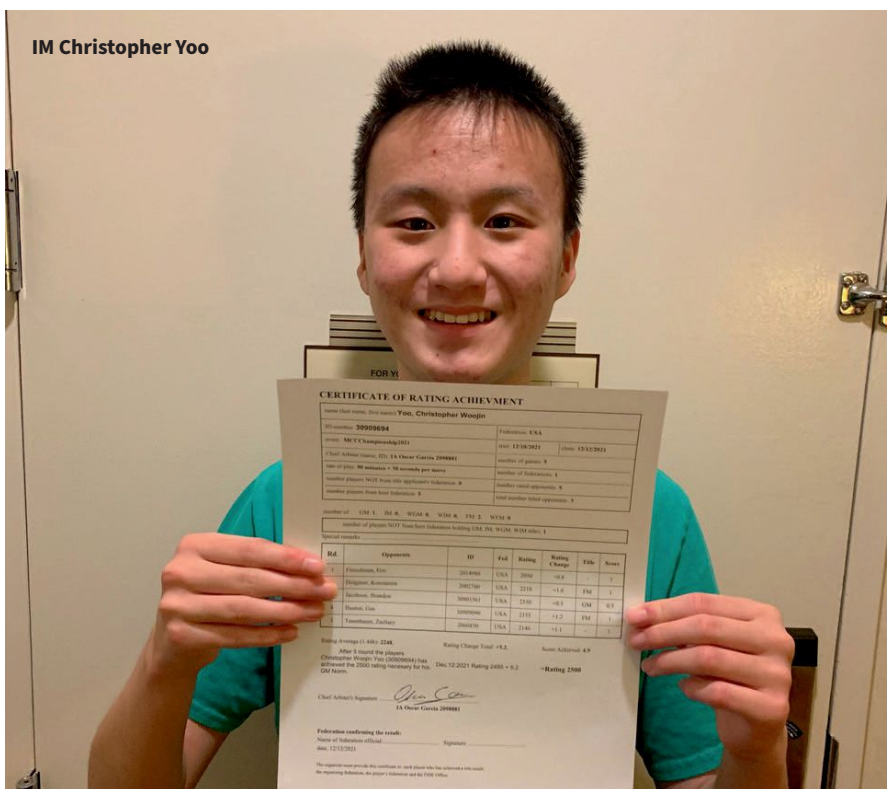
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Na5 6. Bb5+ c6 7. dxc6 bxc6 8. Bd3 Nd5 9. h4 h6 10. Qh5 Qf6 11. Nh7 Rxh7 12. Bxh7 g6 13. Qe2 Nf4 14. Qf3 Qg7?!
Better is 14. … Bb7 15. Nc3 c5 16. Ne4 Qg7 17. d4 0–0–0 18. Bxf4 exf4 19. 0–0–0 f5? *(19. … cxd4!)* 20. dxc5 Rxd1+ 21. Rxd1 Bxe4 22. Qa3 with an advantage for White in Popov – Moskalenko, Moscow 2018.

15. Qc3 Nxg2+?
Black had to play 15. … Bf5! 16. Qxa5 Bxc2 17. Nc3 Bd3 with an unclear position. Now Yoo mops up with his material advantage.

16. Kf1 Nf4 17. Qxa5 Qf6 18. d3 Bh3+ 19. Rxh3 Nxh3 20. Be3 Rb8 21. Qc7 Qd6 22. Qxd6 Bxd6 23. Nd2 Kd7 24. h5 Rxb2 25. hxg6 fxg6 26. Bxg6 Nf4 27. Bf5+ Kc7 28. Bxf4 exf4 29. d4 Bb4 30. Nc4, Black resigned.

2021 Marshall Championship

With a final score of 5½/9, Yoo finished third in the 2021 Marshall Chess Club Championship. The winner was GM Brandon Jacobson (7½/9) ahead of second-place finisher GM Djurabek Khramrakulov. Find all the details at *marshallchessclub.org*.



IM Christopher Yoo

PHOTO: COURTESY SUBJECT

Norms, Norms, Norms...

It used to be that ambitious American title aspirants would have tighten their belts and criss-cross Europe searching for IM and GM norms.

No longer.

In what has become one of the pillars of the American chess calendar, the Charlotte Chess Center and Scholastic Academy sponsored their 25th set of norm events over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. A total of 30 players made their way to Charlotte from January 13-17, doing battle in one GM norm and two IM norm round-robins. The next in this regular series of tournaments is set for March 16-20; for more information, visit *charlottechesscenter.org*.

"NYC Chess Norms" in New York also sponsored four norm tournaments on that same weekend. Led by IM Alex Ostrovskiy and Keith Espinosa, this was the third such set of tournaments for the New York crowd, with another planned for April 14-18. Visit *nycchessnorms.com* for details.

Some of America's top youth, including FM Tanitoluwa Adewumi, FM Ryo Chen, Brewington Hardaway, GM Abhimanyu Mishra, FM Robert Shlyakhtenko, and WIM Rochelle Wu, were all in action over the MLK Day weekend. Here are complete results from the seven events.

WINTER 2022 CCCSA GM/IM NORM INVITATIONALS

January 13-17, 2022 | Charlotte, NC

GM A | 1st-2nd: GM Titas Stremavicius, Jianchao Zhou, 5½. 3rd-5th: GM Abhimanyu Mishra, IM Guillermo Vazques, FM Joshua Posthuma, 5. 6th-7th: IM Josiah Stearman, FM Anish Vivekananthan, 4½. 8th: FM Rohan Talukdar, 4. 9th-10th: IM Craig Hilby, FM Gauri Shankar, 3. Third IM norm for Vivekananthan. First IM norm for Posthuma.

IM B | 1st: FM Ryo Chen, 7. 2nd-3rd: GM Alex Fishbein, IM Levan Bregadze, 5½. 4th: Shelev Oberoi, 5. 5th-6th: IM Alexander Matros, FM Christopher Shen, 4½. 7th: WIM Rochelle Wu, 4. 8th-9th: Ryan Amburgy, Alperen Kanli, 3½. 10th: Alejandro Martinez, 2. First IM norm for Chen.

IM C | 1st: GM Gil Popilski, 6½. 2nd: Vishnu Vanapalli, 6. 3rd-5th: IMs Nikolay Andrianov, Roberto Martin del Campo, FM Bach Ngo, 5. 6th: FM Tanitoluwa Adewumi, 4½. 7th: Sebastian Boehme, 4. 8th-9th: FM Sandeep Sethuraman, Derek Wu, 3½. 10th: Mitch Fishbein, 2.

FM Tanitoluwa Adewumi

PHOTO: COURTESY MIKE KLEIN

2022 NEW YORK WINTER INVITATIONALS

January 13-17, 2022 | New York, NY

GM A | 1st-2nd: GM Gabor Nagy, IM Jason Liang, 5½. 3rd-5th: GM Nikolas Theodorou, IMs Ivan Schitco, Kevin Wang. 5. 6th-8th: GM Djurabek Khramrakulov, IM Balaji Daggupati, FM Robert Shlyakhtenko, 4½. 9th: FM Eric Li, 3½. 10th: IM Levy Rozman, 2. Fourth IM norm for Shlyakhtenko.

GM B | 1st: FM Eddy Tian, 6½. 2nd-3rd: GM Jose Martinez Alcantara, IM Eyal Grinberg, 6. 4th: GM Brandon Jacobson, 5½. 5th: GM Oliver Barbosa, 5. 6th: IM Kassa Korley, 4½. 7th: FM Vincent Tsay, 3½. 8th: GM Michael Rohde, 3. 9th-10th: IM Farai Mandizha, Robert Perez, 2½. Third IM norm and first GM norm for Tian.

IM C | 1st: FM Samrug Narayanan, 6½. 2nd-3rd: IM Srivatshav Rahul Peddy, FM Akira Nakada, 6. 4th-5th: GM Leonid Yudasin, Joseph Zeltsan, 5½. 6th: IM Kyron Griffith, 5. 7th: Lev Paciorkowski, 4. 8th-9th: FM Doug Eckert, Zachary Dukic, 2½. 10th: WFM Byambaa Uyanga, 1½. First IM norm for Narayanan.

IM D | 1st: FM Gus Huston, 7. 2nd: IM Olivier-Kenta Chiku-Ratte, 6½. 3rd-4th: GM Mark Paragua, FM Nico Chasin, 6. 5th: IM Nikoloz Managadze, 5. 6th: Brewington Hardaway, 4½. 7th-8th: James Canty, Grant Xu, 4. 9th: Evan Rosenberg, 2. 10th: WIM Rachel Miller, 0. First IM norm for Huston.

Look for articles about norm events in upcoming issues of *Chess Life*!

... and new titles!

Congratulations to the following FIDE titleholders, awarded between November 1, 2021 and February 10, 2022. We will have regular updates about new titles in future *In the News* segments.

GM: Praveen Balakrishnan, Andrew Hong, Joshua Sheng. IM: Balaji Daggupati, Anthony He, Nikhil Kumar. FM: Ryo Chen, Ashritha Eswaran, Austin Mei, Akira Nakada, Bach Ngo, Kevin Pan, Ruiyang Yan. FA: Robert Getty, Sam Shoykhet. NA: Megan Chen, Charles Hatherill, Shreya Mangalam.

The Swiss Circuit

Here are Open section winners from some recent Continental Chess Association events!

10th Boston Chess Congress (January 7-9, Boston, MA): GM Jianchao Zhou, FM Danila Poliannikov, 4/5.

13th Golden State Open (January 14-17, Concord, CA): IM Kostya Kavutskiy, 6/7.

54th Liberty Bell Open (January 14-17, Philadelphia, PA): IM Thomas Bartell, Daniel Girsh, IM Justin Sarkar, 5½/6.

For up-to-date chess news and analysis, check out ***Chess Life Online*** at ***uschess.org/clo*** on a regular basis.

OPENS JANUARY 27, 2022

ON VIEW THROUGH JULY 17, 2022

Celebrating 10 Years in Saint Louis!

MIND ART EXPERIENCE

MIND, ART, EXPERIENCE: 10 YEARS OF CHESS & CULTURE IN SAINT LOUIS **CELEBRATES THE BEST CHESS, ART AND CULTURE FROM ALL 50 EXHIBITIONS HELD AT THE WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME SINCE ITS 2011 RELOCATION TO SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI. THE THREE-FLOOR SHOW FEATURES MORE THAN 120 ARTWORKS AND ARTIFACTS, INCLUDING PIECES RELATED TO WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONS WORKS BY INTERNATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED ARTISTS, CHESS-INSPIRED CREATIONS BY SAINT LOUIS-BASED CREATIVES AND LOANS FROM NOTABLE CHESS COLLECTORS AND ART INSTITUTIONS.**

Missouri Arts Council

For more information, visit worldchesshof.org @WorldChessHOF

Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

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Real or Not?

Fact, fiction, and fabulous tactics!

BY **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**

THERE ARE FAMOUS GAMES published in books and online. In some cases, the games didn't really take place. Or they did, with different move orders or even different moves. Sometimes it happens by imaginative chicanery, sometimes by mistaken recording, sometimes by publishing mere analysis as if it's a game, and sometimes the moves are really real.

The following entertaining game falls into this nebulous abyss. It was supposedly played in 1907 in Carlsbad between Rudolf Spielmann and Oldrich Duras (Black). The game can be found in classic texts, but there are questions about its authenticity. Real or not, Spielmann's tour de force attack is very entertaining. The opening purportedly was an Giuoco Piano:

GIUOCO PIANO (C54)

Rudolf Spielmann
Oldrich Duras
Carlsbad, 1907

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5

Now ensure that the position above is set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover the article, exposing White's next move only after trying to guess it. If you guess correctly, give yourself the par score. Sometimes points are also awarded for second-best moves, and there may even be bonus points — or deductions — for other moves and variations. Note that ** means that White's move is on the next line.**

4. c3 **Par Score 5**
White prepares the possible advance d2-d4. You can accept ***full credit*** for 4. d3, 4. 0-0, 4. Nc3, or 4. b4 (the Evans Gambit).**

4. ... Nf6
Black develops and attacks the e-pawn.**

5. d4 **Par Score 5**
Spielmann plays to establish a classical pawn center, but you may accept ***full credit*** for 5. d3, which in recent times has become the preferred continuation.

5. ... exd4**

6. cxd4 **Par Score 5**
For the moment, the white king-pawn is safe, since Black must rescue the c5-bishop.

6. ... Bb4+
Black saves the bishop with a gain of time. **

7. Nc3 **Par Score 5**
This idea goes back far. Greco analyzed it in the 1600s, and analysis on it can be traced further back than that. You may accept ***full credit*** for the safer 7. Bd2. The game Mednis – Fischer (New York 1963/64) continued 7. ... Bxd2+ 8. Nbxd2 Nxe4. Being the "wallboy" for this game, I recall it rather well.

7. ... Nxe4
With the c3-knight pinned, Black grabs the material. The game Steinitz versus von Bardeleben (Hastings 1895), one of the most famous chess games of all-time, continued 7. ... d5.**

8. 0-0 **Par Score 6**
White gets the king to safety and is ready to exploit the open e-file. Meanwhile, the e4-knight is hanging.

8. ... Bxc3
This gets rid of the immediate attack on the knight. **

9. d5 **Par Score 6**
The Möller Attack. White is temporarily down a piece. But Black must soon give it back. Two of Black's pieces are hanging, and a third (the e4-knight) is vulnerable along the e-file, while Black's king is still on its home square.

9. ... Bf6
Black saves the bishop. Another idea is 9. ... Ne5. A well-known trap goes 10. bxc3 Nxc4 11. Qd4 Ncd6 12. Qxg7 Qf6 13. Qxf6 Nxf6 14. Re1+ Kf8 15. Bh6+ Kg8 16. Re5 Nde4 17. Nd2 d6 18. Nxe4, with mate to follow. To be sure, Black has better moves along the way.**

10. Re1 **Par Score 6**
This is stronger than taking the knight on c6. Two black knights are now under fire.

10. ... Ne7
This saves one of them.**

11. Rxe4 **Par Score 5**
White remains a pawn down, but with compensation.

11. ... d6
This advance allows Black to get out his queenside pieces.**

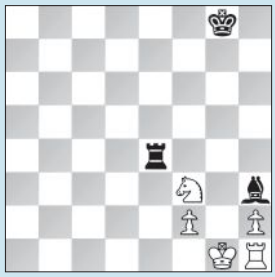
12. Bg5 **Par Score 5**

ABCS OF CHESS

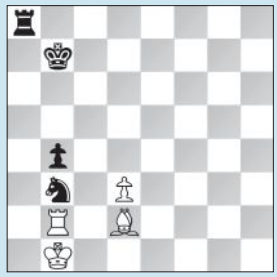
THESE PROBLEMS ARE ALL related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, Black is to move. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 59.

MARCH EXERCISE:
Next time you're analyzing a game, try out this exercise. First analyze the game the way you would ordinarily. Then, imagining you're standing before a schoolroom audience, briefly explain the game as if you were a teacher. This could be difficult at first, and you might leave out key points. Check your original analysis; with practice, you will get better at summarizing essentials. You might even find that you like teaching.

PROBLEM 1
Mating net

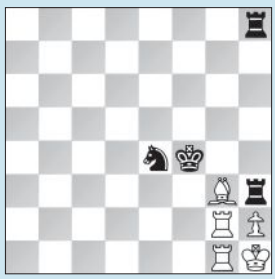


PROBLEM 2
Mating net



PROBLEM 3
Mating net

PROBLEM 4
Mating net



PROBLEM 5
Mating net

PROBLEM 6
Mating net

White develops and clears the home rank.

12. ... 0-0
Black could trade here instead, 12. ... Bxg5 13. Nxg5, but White may still has enough for the pawn. If Black tries 13. ... h6, there could follow 14. Qe2 hxg5 15. Re1.**

13. Bxf6 **Par Score 5**
Naturally, White plays to bust up Black's kingside.

13. ... gxf6
Duras has an extra pawn, but it doesn't mean much, especially with the airiness of the black kingside.**

14. Nh4 **Par Score 6**
White maneuvers the knight closer to the black king, while clearing the d1-h5 diagonal for the queen's entrance.

14. ... Ng6
Black closes the g-file and offers the possibility of a trade.**

15. Qh5 **Par Score 6**
A strong invasion. If 15. ... Nxh4, then 16. Rxh4 (***1 bonus point***) is decisive.

15. ... Kh8
Duras gets his king off the exposed g-file. This also enables him to place a rook at g8.**

16. Rae1 **Par Score 5**
Spielmann doubles rooks and completes his development.

16. ... Bd7
Black clears the home rank, though the position is slanting White's way.**

17. Bd3 **Par Score 6**
Spielmann takes aim at the h7-square. For now, the e4-rook and the g6-knight block the line.

17. ... Rg8
With the g-file half-open, it makes sense to place a rook on it.**

18. Re7 **Par Score 7**
The unexpected intrusion to the seventh rank gives White the upper hand. The rook is obviously immune to capture by the knight, else mate follows on h7.

18. ... Rg7
With this move the black rook guards both h7 and f7. Nevertheless, it's too late to save the game.**

19. Bxg6 **Par Score 6**
This is the correct way to capture on g6. ***Deduct 2 points*** for 19. Nxg6+, when 19. ... fxg6 20. Rxg7 Kxg7 allows Black to survive and more.

19. ... fxg6**

20. Nxg6+ **Par Score 6**
Now if Black plays 20. ... Rxg6, White has 21. Qxh7 mate.

20. ... Kg8**

21. Rxg7+ **Par Score 5**
This wins, since 21. ... Kxg7 is met by 22. Re7+. So, assuming that the game was real...

21. ... Black resigned.

TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:

Total Score	Approx. Rating
95+	2400+
81-90	2200-2399
66-80	2000-2199
51-65	1800-1999
36-50	1600-1799
21-35	1400-1599
06-20	1200-1399
0-05	under 1200

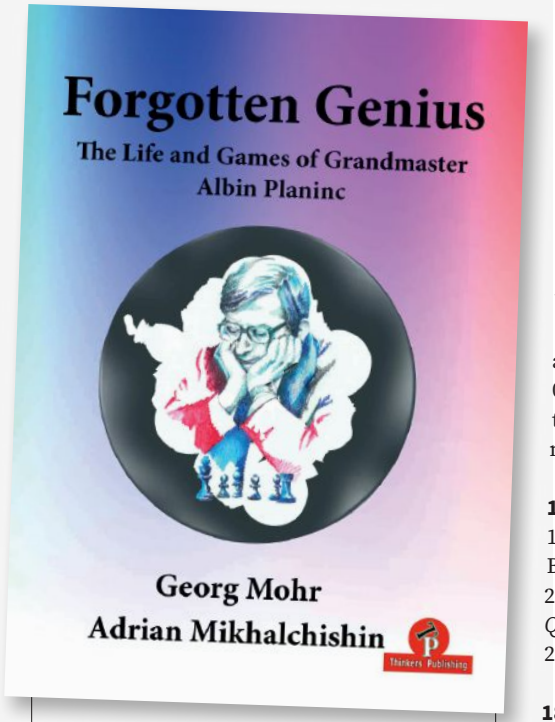
Unbridled Aggression

New books on two attacking geniuses

BY **IM JOHN WATSON**

WHEN I WAS STARTING OUT in chess, games collections and tournament books constituted a majority of the high-quality chess books available — the ones that could teach a curious youngster something beyond the basics. As time went on, publishers began to produce a large variety of books about specialized topics such as tactics, endings, strategy, and openings, while the tournament book became a relative rarity. But it remained a major event when a world champion or leading grandmaster produced a book of annotated games. I venture to say that most of the best players of the pre-computer era learned as much or more from those books as from any other part of their studies.

Recently we've been treated to numerous books about legends who contended for the world championships. But in a pleasant surprise, authors have also been exploring lesser-known players of significant talent who, despite their less exalted results, have made original contributions and left a lasting impression on their contemporaries. I'll be discussing a few of those here.



Few of today's young players have heard of the Slovenian GM Albin Planinc (1944-2008), but there was a time during which he was a kind of hero for fans of romantic attacking chess all over the world. One of those was GM Georg Mohr, a student of Planinc's, who is a kind of lead author for the book. Mohr describes Planinc's games as "imbued with incredible energy... with so much of what most people think is beautiful in chess." In the opening, Planinc would play to create dynamic chances, often without regard to safety or material. It wasn't always the most practical style, but it gained him many fans.

When I was growing up, Planinc's miniature masterpiece versus Vaganian was widely known, but I wonder how many of today's young players have seen it. Oddly enough, Black's opening treatment is still theoretically relevant over 40 years later.

ENGLISH OPENING (A32)

GM Rafael Vaganian
GM Albin Planinc
Hastings, 1974/75

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. Nf3 cxd4 4. Nxd4 e6 5. Nc3 Bb4 6. Ndb5 0–0 7. a3 Bxc3+ 8. Nxc3 d5 9. Bg5 h6!
Typical Planinc: Black offers a pawn for superior development and activity.

10. Bxf6
Here 10. Bh4 can be met by 10. ... d4 11. Ne4 g5 12. Nxf6+ Qxf6 13. Bg3 e5 14. h4 Bf5 with advantage.

10. ... Qxf6 11. cxd5 exd5 12. Qxd5 Rd8 13. Qf3 Qb6 14. Rd1 Rxd1+ 15. Nxd1
White has everything covered and an extra pawn.

15. ... Nc6 16. Qe3!?
Very logical, offering an exchange of queens and threatening Qe3-e8+. The alternative 16. e3 Be6 17. Be2 Rd8 18. 0–0 (*18. b4? Nxb4*) 18. ... Rd2 gives Black the seventh rank with active pieces and more than enough for a pawn.

16. ... Nd4! 17. Qe8+ Kh7 18. e3
18. Qxf7? wins a second pawn, but 18. ... Bf5 19. e3 Nc2+ hunts down the king, e.g., 20. Kd2 (*20. Ke2 Bg6 21. Qf4 Qb5+ 22. Kf3 Qc5 23. Kg3 Rf8*) 20. ... Rd8+ 21. Kc1 Bg6 22. Qc4 Nxa3.

18. ... Nc2+ 19. Kd2
Now White threatens Bf1-d3+ and appears safe. The game is reaching a climax, and Planinc reveals the point of his previous moves:

19. ... Bf5!!

20. Qxa8 Qd6+ 21. Kc1

Without going into all the details, 21. Kc3 will also lose to 21. ... Qe5+! 22. Kb3 (*22. Kd2 Qd5+ 23. Kc3 Qa5+! 24. b4 Qxa3+ 25. Kd2 Qxb4+*) 22. ... Na1+! 23. Kb4 (*23. Ka2 Qd5+*) 23. ... b6 24. Qc6 Bd7!.

21. ... Na1
Threatening ... Na1-b3 mate!

22. Qxb7?
So logical, and yet it loses immediately. 22. Bc4! staves off disaster, although Black gets all the winning chances after 22. ... Qc6 23. Nc3 Qxc4 24. Qd8! Nb3+ 25. Kd1 Qg4+ 26. Ne2 (all forced) 26. ... Qe4! 27. Ke1 Qb1+ 28. Qd1 Qxb2.

22. ... Qc7+!, White resigned.
Lovely! 23. Qxc7 is met by 23. ... Nb3 mate.

Planinc was plagued by what the authors call "a nervous disease" for the last 30 years of his life and played almost no chess. But even in his generally low-quality games from his last international tournament, he showed his tactical flair:

SICILIAN DEFENSE, NAJDORF VARIATION (B99)

GM Albin Planinc
IM Jerzy Pokojowczyk
Polanica Zdroj, 1979

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Be7 8. Qf3 h6 9. Bh4 Qc7 10. 0–0–0 Nbd7 11. Be2 g5 12. fxg5 Ne5 13. Qe3! Nfg4 14. Bxg4 Nxg4 15. Qd2 hxg5 16. Bxg5 Nf2?
Tricky, but this gets crushed.

17. Bxe7 Nxd1

(see diagram top of next column)

18. Nd5!! exd5 19. Bf6 Rh5 20. exd5
White is a rook down but what an attack!

20. ... Bg4

Black can resign after 20. ... Rxd5 21. Re1+ Re5 22. Qg5!!.

21. Re1+ Kf8 22. h3!
A slow move which highlights Black's helplessness.

22. ... Re8 23. hxg4 Rxe1 24. Qxe1 Nxb2 25. Kxb2 Rxd5 26. g5 Ra5 27. g6, Black resigned.

The book is primarily a games collection, but it also has a great deal of biographical information. The descriptions of his opponents, along with the many photos of leading players of his day, should appeal to chess history buffs. For chess book collectors, I should mention that there is another (self-published) book of Planinc's games that appeared not long before this one: Pablo Iglesias' *Apologia of the Unexpected: Selected Games of Albin Planinc*. It is a much shorter, modest effort, written with an explicit appeal to other writers to examine Planinc's career more thoroughly. I think that Iglesias will be happy that Mohr and Mikhalchishin have done precisely that.

If Planinc was known for attacking chess, GM Viktor Kupreichik (1949-2017) was equally aggressive, and uncompromising to a fault. He was also, like Planinc, a sort of folk hero for his Belorussian fans.

In part one of *Kupreichik: The Maestro from Minsk*, no fewer than 24 prominent players write short chapters in which some discuss their impressions of Kupreichik and present from one to five of his games apiece. Along with a number of younger GMs, there are contributions from Karpov, Beliavsky, Suetin, Tukmakov, Sosonko, Gelfand, Kasparov, Sveshnikov, Smirin, Mamedov, Balashov and Vaganian. This is followed by Part Two with 46 games annotated by Kupreichik himself over the years, sometimes with Informant-style notes supplemented by verbal notes added by the editors.

Several of the contributors point to Kupreichik's overambitiousness as his curse. In two major top-class tournaments, for example, he started with five consecutive victories, but his refusal to play for the occasional draw (or accept draws when offered) led to mental fatigue and drastic collapses. You can see this in the games of this book where, after lengthy and monstrously complicated struggles, even against world-class players, he rejects drawing lines and risks losing.

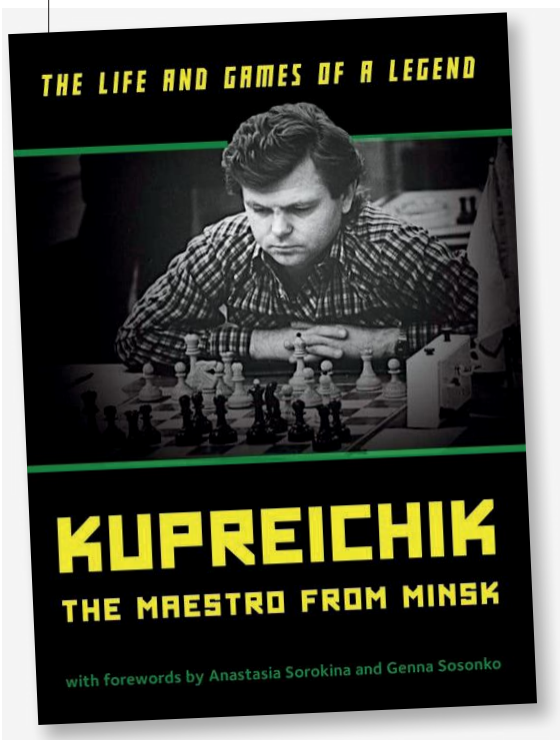
The following game isn't exceptionally flashy, but illustrates Kupreichik's mastery of the King's Indian Defense and his avoidance of simplification in pursuit of attack.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE, MAR DEL PLATA VARIATION (E97)

GM Josif Dorfman
GM Viktor Kupreichik
USSR, 1980

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 0–0 5. e4 d6 6. Be2 e5 7. 0–0 Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. Bd2 Nh5 10. g3 f5 11. exf5 Nxf5 12. Ne4 Nf6 13. Bd3 Bh6 14. Bc3!?
My initial instincts in a position like this is that White stands very safely and should have a small positional advantage, but Kupreichik is comfortable with the cluster of Black's pieces on the kingside. Here a slow move like 14. b4 might have kept better control over the kingside squares.

(see diagram next page)


THE LIFE AND GAMES OF A LEGEND
KUPREICHIK
THE MAESTRO FROM MINSK
with forewords by Anastasia Sorokina and Genna Sosonko

Kupreichik now finds an astonishing reorganization which, above all, keeps maximum complications on the board:

14. ... Ng7!
What a retreat! The goal is to make the equally strange move ... Ng7-h5 next, wasting two moves to shift from the seemingly powerful f5 post to the edge of the board. GM Andrey Kovalev gives 14. ... Nxe4 15. Bxe4 Qf6 as equal, "but this is too conventional and tedious for Kupreichik."

15. Nfd2 Ngh5! 16. Re1 Bf5 17. c5
After 17. f3 Qd7 18. Bf1 Nxe4 19. Nxe4 Qf7 20. Nf2 Nf6 the engine still calls it equal.

17. ... Qd7 18. cxd6 cxd6 19. f3 Rf7!
Intending ... Ra8-f8. Let's bring every piece into the attack!

20. Nc4?
Moving away from the kingside! Better is 20. a4!? Raf8 21. Ra3.

20. ... Bxe4 21. fxe4
If 21. Bxe4 Nxe4 22. fxe4 Raf8 23. Qe2 Qh3 24. Qg2 Qc8! 25. Na3 Qc5+ 26. Kh1 Rf2 27. Qh3 b5 Black will win a piece and then some.

21. ... b5 22. Na3
The notes suggest 22. Nxe5 dxe5 23. Bxe5, but among other ideas, 23. ... Raf8 24. Qe2 Ng4 is extremely strong: 25. Bd4 (*25. Bxb5 Qc8* and ... Rf7-f2) 25. ... Nxh2 26. Qxh2 (*26. Kxh2 Rf3 27. Rf1 Qg4*) 26. ... Rf3 27. Bf1 Rxg3+ 28. Bg2 Qg4 29. Rf1 Bf4.

Now Kupreichik finds a nice shot:

22. ... Nxg3! 23. hxg3 Qh3 24. Qf3 Ng4 25. Qg2 Qh5! 26. Qh1 Rf3!
A pretty finish.

27. Qxh5 Rxg3+ 28. Kh1 gxh5 29. Be2
Black wins after 29. Bf1 Nf2+ 30. Kh2 Bf4 31. Bg2 h4! 32. Re2 h3.

29. ... Rh3+, White resigned.
The end is 29. ... Rh3+ 30. Kg1 Be3+ 31. Kf1 Rh1+ 32. Kg2 Rh2+ 33. Kg3 Bf4+ 34. Kf3 Rf2 mate.

Here's another King's Indian, one that Kovalev calles "one of the best King's Indian games of all time." I won't clutter it with notes, but suffice it to say that all of Black's play is sound, as is White's up to his final defensive lapse.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE, AVERBAKH VARIATION (E73)

GM Georgy Agzamov
GM Viktor Kupreichik
USSR Championship, 1981

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 0–0 6. Bg5 Nbd7 7. Qd2 e5 8. d5 Nc5 9. f3 Bd7 10. h4 Qe8 11. g4 h5 12. 0–0–0 hxg4 13. Bxf6 Bxf6 14. fxg4 Qd8 15. Qe1 Bg7 16. Nh3 f5 17. exf5 gxf5 18. g5 b5! 19. cxb5 a6 20. b4!?
Tempting, but Black gets great activity for his piece. 20. h5! would get White's counterattack moving.

20. ... axb5! 21. bxc5 b4 22. Nb1 Rxa2 23. Bc4 Ra5 24. c6

24. ... Qb8!!
This second piece sacrifice is the key.

25. Qe2
A logical defense. After 25. cxd7 Rc5, the c4-bishop hangs and White's king is exposed. Okay, the computer finds the miraculous 26. Rd4!!, leading to balanced chances after 26. ... Qb5! (*26. ... exd4? 27. Qe6+ Kh8 28. Nf4 Rxc4+ 29. Kd1*) 27. Kd1 Rxc4 (or *27. ... Qa4+ 28. Kd2 Qa1*) 28. Rxc4 Qxc4 29. Nd2 Qb5 30. Qe2 Qxd7 according to my engine. But who would actually play this way as White?

25. ... b3! 26. cxd7 Qb4 27. Rd2 e4 28. Nf4?
White had to return one of the extra pieces with 28. Kd1 Ra1 29. Bd3 exd3 30. Qxd3 with dynamic equality.

28. ... Ra1 29. Rh3 Bc3!
There's no good defense now.

30. Bxb3 Bxd2+ 31. Qxd2 Rxb1+ 32. Kxb1 Qxd2 33. Ne6 Rb8 34. d8=Q+ Rxd8 35. Nxd8 e3 36. Ne6 e2 37. Rh1 f4!, White resigned.

Kupreichik: The Maestro from Minsk is primarily a games collection, but includes biographical information and stories provided by other players, as well as a nice photo section, exercises, and personal essays by family members.

Both these books offer a plethora of exciting, complicated, back-and-forth struggles. One impression I get is that, before the rise of the engines, it was easier to achieve unclear tactical positions from forcing lines the opening and to survive, even when accepting an objectively worse position. Today, players are better at finding harmless continuations that frustrate the attacker, and when they do allow tactical lines, they are more likely to have a concrete solution prepared to either refute or neutralize them.

I'm not sure if we will ever again have players like this so consistently succeed in throwing even the highest-level players upon their own resources, but these books make for great reading and will inspire attacking players everywhere.

Mohr, Georg, and Adrian Mikhalchishin. Forgotten Genius: The Life and Games of Grandmaster Albin Planinc. *Thinkers Publishing, 2021. ISBN-13: 978-9464201291, 439 pages. (Available from* uscfsales.com, *product code B0104TH, $40.95.)*

Iglesias, Pablo. Apologia of the Unexpected: Selected Games of Albin Planinc. *Self-published, 2020. ISBN-13 979-8585078118, 196 pages.*

Multiple authors. Kupreichik: The Maestro from Minsk. *London Chess Centre Publishing, 2021. ISBN: 978-0948443961, 325 pages.*

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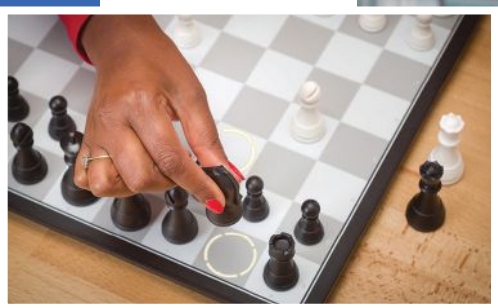

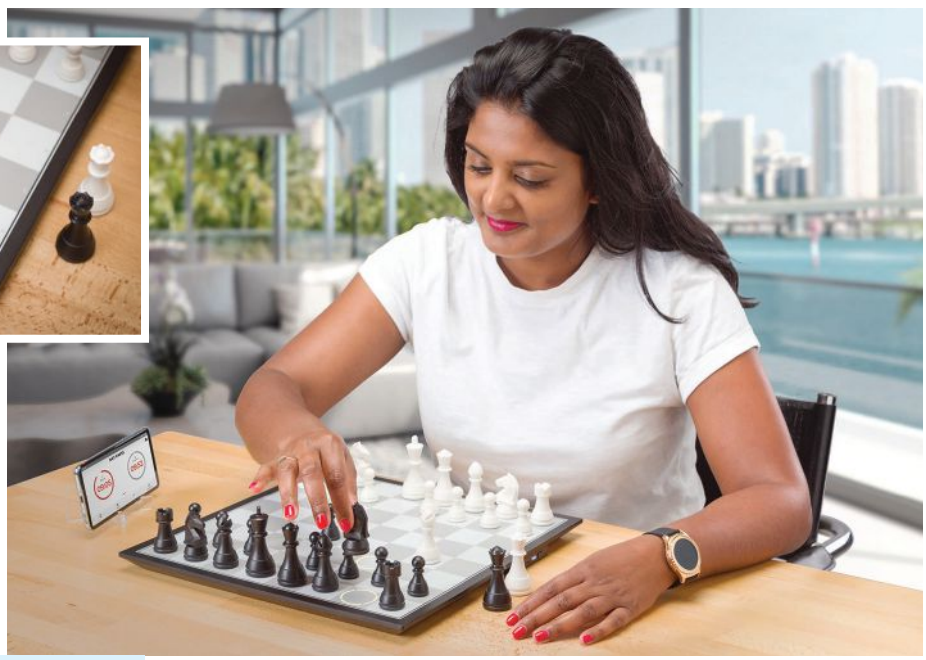

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TOURNAMENT LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Board authorizes a temporary change in the US Chess Grand Prix (GP) rules for the period March 4, 2020 through March 31, 2022 out of concern for the unforeseeable impacts the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) could have on participation in GP events. The change allows organizers with guaranteed prize funds to change the status of their prize fund without first seeking US Chess permission to make the change. More specifically, organizers who have announced "$XXX in Guaranteed prizes" (or similar words) for their GP events shall be allowed to re-state their prize funds in their publicity as "$XXX in Projected prizes based on ### players," where ### represents the number of players in last year's event rounded to the nearest five players. For new GP events lacking historical attendance data, the organizer shall specify a "based on" number of players as part of the Projected Prize Fund language in their publicity. This decision includes all GP tournaments that already have been advertised in Chess Life. For any GP events being publicly advertised (whether by TLA, another website, flyers, emails, social media, etc.), organizers shall take all necessary steps to ensure their revised pre-tournament announcements call attention to this change in prize fund status and provide the appropriate "Projected based on XXX players" in the language of their updated publicity. US Chess asks that the chess community support this temporary change in the spirit that it is intended. The Executive Board shall revisit this matter as necessary.

NATIONAL EVENTS & BIDS NOW ON USCHESS.ORG Effective with the November 2020 *Chess Life,* we have removed the National Events and Bids page that has traditionally been part of our TLA section. This information continues to be available here: **new.uschess.org/national-events-calendar**

For complete details on individual events, please visit *new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]*. You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

Nationals

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2022 National High School (K-12) Championships

APRIL 8-10, 2022, TENNESSEE

Event site: Renasant Convention Center **Address:** 255 N Main St, Memphis, TN 38103 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Boyd Reed **Email:** *nationalevents@uschess.org* **Phone:** 931-787-2244 **Website:** *http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2022/hs* **TLA ID:** 32429

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2022 All-Girls National Championships presented by the Kasparov Chess Foundation in association with Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation & US Chess

APRIL 22-24, 2022, ILLINOIS

Event site: Hyatt Regency McCormick Place **Address:** 2233 South Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Chicago, IL 60616 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** David Heiser **Email:** *david.heiser@renaissanceknights.org* **Phone:** 7738440701 **Website:** *http://allgirls.rknights.org/* **TLA ID:** 31652

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SEE TLA on page 53

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2022 National Middle School (K-8) Championships

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2022, TEXAS

Event site: Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center **Address:** 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine, TX 76051 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Boyd Reed **Email:** *nationalevents@uschess.org* **Phone:** 931-787-2244 **Website:** *http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2022/ms* **TLA ID:** 32529

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2022 National Elementary (K-6) Championships

MAY 13-15, 2022, OHIO

Event site: Greater Columbus Convention Center **Address:** 400 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Boyd Reed **Email:** *nationalevents@uschess.org* **Phone:** 931-787-2244 **Website:** *http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2022/elem* **TLA ID:** 32594

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

2022 U.S. Women's Open

JUNE 8-9, 2022, NEVADA

Event site: Westgate Las Vegas Resort **Address:** 3000 Paradise Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109 **Overall prize fund:** $3,500 **GP Points:** 50 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Vegas Chess Festivals **Email:** *vegas@chessgmail.com* **Phone:** 702-930-9550 **Website:** *https://vegaschessfestival.com* **TLA ID:** 32319

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2022 National Open

JUNE 8-12, 2022, NEVADA

Event site: Westgate Las Vegas Resort **Address:** 3000 Paradise Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109 **Overall prize fund:** $100,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Vegas Chess Festivals **Email:** *vegas@chessgmail.com* **Phone:** 702-930-9550 **Website:** *https://vegaschessfestival.com* **TLA ID:** 32321

Grand Prix

The Grand Prix continues in 2022. Look for 2021 standings in an upcoming issue.

GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Claude E Webber Memorial Cup 2022

MARCH 5, 2022, MAINE

Event site: Bonny Eagle Middle School **Address:** 92 Sokokis Trail, Buxton, ME 0409 **Overall prize fund:** $500 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Maine Chess Association **Email:** *info@chessmaine.org* **Phone:** 207-939-2782 **Website:** *https://www.chessmaine.org* **TLA ID:** 31813

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

19th annual Southern Class Championships

MARCH 18-20, 2022, FLORIDA

Event site: Wyndham Orlando Resort **Address:** 8001 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819 **Overall prize fund:** $17,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269, leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 31810

GRAND PRIX

2022 Lone Star Open

MARCH 18-20, 2022, TEXAS

Event site: DoubleTree by Hilton Bush International **Address:** 15757 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Houston, TX 77032 **Overall prize fund:** $11,000 b/225; 60% gtd. **GP Points:** 40 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Francisco Guadalupe **Email:** *flguadalupe@aol.com* **Phone:** (713) 530-7820 **Website:** *https://www.kingregistration.com/event/2022LoneStar* **TLA ID:** 32057

GRAND PRIX

Michigantown Madness

MARCH 19, 2022, INDIANA

Event site: Michigantown Lions Community Center **Address:** 500 Ohio Street, Michigantown, IN 46057 **Overall prize fund:** $1,655 **GP Points:** 10 **FIDE:** N **Handicap:** Y **Residency:** N **Org.:** John Herr **Email:** *johnherr13@hotmail.com* **Phone:** 641-745-0200 **Website:** *https://tinyurl.com/3vvyrwje* **TLA ID:** 32361

GRAND PRIX

30th Massachusetts G/60 Championship

MARCH 20, 2022, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center **Address:** 219 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886 **Overall prize fund:** $2,500 **GP Points:** 15 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Massachusetts Chess Association **Email:** *info@masschess.org* **Phone:** 603-891-2484 **Website:** *http://www.masschess.org* **TLA ID:** 32352

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

26th annual Mid-America Open

MARCH 25-27, 2022, MISSOURI

Event site: Clayton Plaza Hotel **Address:** 7750 Carondelet Ave, Clayton, MO 63105 **Overall prize fund:** $20,000 **GP Points:** 120 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269, leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 31819

GRAND PRIX

CFCC 2022 34th Annual Club Championship

MARCH 26-27, 2022, FLORIDA

Event site: Central Florida Chess Club **Address:** 865 North State Road 434, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 **Overall prize fund:** $1,175 **GP Points:** 15 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Central Florida Chess Club **Email:** *info@centralflchess.org* **Phone:** (407) 312-6237 **Website:** *https://www.centralflchess.org/cfcc-2022-34th-annual-club-championship-tournament* **TLA ID:** 32425

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX

2022 Cincinnati Open

APRIL 1-3, 2022, OHIO

Event site: Embassy Suites Hotel **Address:** 4554 Lake Forest Drive, Blue Ash, OH 45242 **Overall prize fund:** $8,000 b/150 pd. ent. **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Alan Hodge **Email:** *a.hodge195@gmail.com* **Phone:** 5136009915 **Website:** *https://www.chesscincinnati.com* **TLA ID:** 32043

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2022 DFW FIDE Premier 2

APRIL 1-3, 2022, TEXAS

Event site: Doubletree by Hilton DFW Airport North **Address:** 4441 W. John Carpenter Fwy, Irving, TX 75063 **Overall prize fund:** $1,000 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Luis Salinas **Email:** *info@dallaschess.com* **Phone:** 214-546-0514 **Website:** *http://www.dallaschess.com* **TLA ID:** 32571

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

42nd Annual Marchand Open

APRIL 9-10, 2022, NEW YORK

Event site: Bill Gray's Regional Iceplex (on the MCC Campus) **Address:** 2700 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd., Rochester, NY 14623 **Overall prize fund:** $17,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Ronald Lohrman **Email:** *chesscenter@rochester.rr.com* **Phone:** 585-442-2430 **Website:** *http://www.nychess.org* **TLA ID:** 31881

AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

14th annual Open at Foxwoods

APRIL 13-17, 2022, CONNECTICUT

Event site: Foxwoods Resort Casino **Address:** Rt 2, Mashantucket, CT 06339 **Overall prize fund:** $75,000 b/500 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269, leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 31762

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

3rd Colonial Open

APRIL 13-17, 2022, VIRGINIA

Event site: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott **Address:** 45020 Aviation Dr., Dulles, VA 20166 **Overall prize fund:** $14,000 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Anand DommalapatiEmail: *co2022@capitalareachess.com* **Phone:** 7036275314 **Website:** *http://www.ColonialOpenChess.com***TLA ID:** 32635

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

9th Annual Sands Regency -Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open

APRIL 15-17, 2022, NEVADA

Event site: Sands Regency Hotel Casino **Address:** 345 N Arlington Avenue, Reno, NV 89501 **Overall prize fund:** $27,500 **GP Points:** 150 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Jerome V. Weikel **Email:** *wackyykl@aol.com* **Phone:** 775-747-1405 **Website:** *http://www.renochess.org* **TLA ID:** 32344

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

13th annual Blitz at Foxwoods

APRIL 16, 2022, CONNECTICUT

Event site: Foxwoods Resort Casino **Address:** Rt 2, Mashantucket, CT 06339 **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269, leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32418

HERITAGE EVENT • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

27th Space Coast Open

APRIL 22-24, 2022, FLORIDA

Event site: Holiday Inn Melbourne-Viera Conference Center **Address:** 8298 N. Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32940 **Overall prize fund:** $20,000 **GP Points:** 80 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Jon Haskel **Email:** *jon@bocachess.com* **Phone:** 561-302-4377 **Website:** *http://www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org/***TLA ID:** 32689

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2022 Maine State Open Championship

APRIL 22-24, 2022, MAINE

Event site: Waterville Grand Hotel **Address:** 375 Main St., Waterville, ME 04901 **Overall prize fund:** $1,125 **GP Points:** 15 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** Y **Organizer:** Maine Chess Association **Email:** *president@chessmaine.org* **Phone:** 207-904-0499 **Website:** *https://www.chessmaine.org/* **TLA ID:** 32700

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

30th annual Eastern Class Championships

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2022, MASSACHUSETTS

Event site: Sturbridge Host Hotel **Address:** 366 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566 **Overall prize fund:** $20,000 **GP Points:** 120 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269, leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32412

GRAND PRIX

Sheridan Wyoming Open

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022

Event site: Whitney Academic Center **Address:** 1 Whitney Way, Sheridan, WY 82801 **Overall prize fund:** $3,875 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Sheridan Chess Association **Email:** *admin@sheridanchess.com* **Phone:** 202-679-6779 **Website:** *http://www.SheridanChess.com* **TLA ID:** 32742

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2nd annual Niagara Falls Open

MAY 13-15, 2022, NEW YORK

Event site: Sheraton Niagara Falls **Address:** 300 3rd St, Niagara Falls NY 14303 **Overall prize fund:** $12,000 **GP Points:** 100 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269, leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32660

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

9th Cherry Blossom Classic

MAY 26-30, 2022, VIRGINIA

Event site: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott **Address:** 45020 Aviation Dr, Dulles, VA 20166 **Overall prize fund:** $20,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Anand Dommalapati **Email:** *cbc2022@capitalareachess.com* **Phone:** 7036275314 **Website:** *http://www.cherryblossomchess.com* **TLA ID:** 32735

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

31st annual Chicago Open

MAY 26-30, 2022, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 North Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling, IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** $100,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32120

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

9th annual Chicago Open Blitz

MAY 29, 2022, ILLINOIS

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 North Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling, IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** $2,500 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32588

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

15th annual Philadelphia International

JUNE 24-28, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

14th annual OPEN at FOXWOODS

April 13-17, 14-17 or 15-17, Easter weekend, Foxwoods Resort Casino

$75,000 projected prizes, $50,000 minimum, GM & IM norms possible!

Open Section: 9 rounds, Apr 13-17, 40/90, SD/30, +30, FIDE rated, FIDE norms possible.

Other sections: 7 rounds, Apr 14-17 or 15-17, 40/90, SD/30, +30 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10). U2200 & U2000 are FIDE rated.

Foxwoods Resort Casino, in the woods of Southeast CT.

Masks may be required. **Certification** of Covid vaccination may be required.

7 sections. Prizes $75,000 based on 500 entries (seniors, re-entries, U1100, Open GMs/IMs/WGMs & foreign FIDE count half, else proportional); minimum 2/3 each prize guaranteed.

Open: $7000-4000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-300-300, clear or tiebreak 1st $200 bonus, top FIDE 2250-2399 $2000-1000, top FIDE U2250/Unr $2000-1000. 200 GPP.

U2200/Unr, U2000/Unr, U1800: Each $4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-400-300-300-300.

U2000 Section Unr limit $1000.

U1600, U1400: Each $3000-1500-1000-600-500-400-300-300-200-200.

U1100/Unr: $1000-600-500-400-300-300-300-200-200-200, Unrated prize limit $300..

Mixed doubles: Male/female combined 2-player team scores among all sections: $1000-600-400-200. Must average under 2200, may play in different sections, register (no fee) before both begin round 2.

FIDE ratings used in Open, Apr official USCF in others. Unofficial or USCF Online Regular ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

If under 26 games rated by April 2022 list, limit $600 U1100, $1500 U1400, $2500 U1600 & U1800.

If any post-event Regular OTB or Regular Online rating posted 4/11/21-4/11/22 was more than 50 points over section maximum, prize limit $800.

Entry fees, titled player minimum prizes, special USCF dues: See www.chessevents.us.

5-day reg. ends Wed 6 pm, rds Wed 7 pm, Thu 12 noon & 7 pm, Fri/Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4:30.

4-day reg. ends Thu 6 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri/Sat 11 am & 6 pm, Sun. 10 am & 4:30 pm.

3-day reg. ends Fri 10 am, rds Fri 11, 2:30 & 6, merges with 4-day Fri at 6 pm.

Half-point byes: OK all, limit 3 (limit 2 in last 4 rds). must commit before rd 3.

Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied.

Special room rates: Grand Pequot Tower (tournament site, very luxurious): Fri/Sat $209, others $153. Fox Tower (5-7 minute walk in connected building): Fri/Sat $179, others $123. Great Cedar Hotel (4-6 minute walk, connected building): Fri/Sat $149, others $103. All: $4.95 resort fee, includes wired internet, fitness center, pool, spa, coffee, etc.

Blitz tournament Sat 10:30 pm.

Entries, registration list: chessaction.com.

For complete details on individual events, please visit *new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]*. You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $22,000 **GP Points:** 200 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32121

AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

16th annual Philadelphia Open

JUNE 24-26, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $15,000 **GP Points:** 100 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32123

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

50th annual World Open

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $225,000 **GP Points:** 300 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32104

ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

11th annual World Open Women's Championship

JUNE 29-30, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32615

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

11th annual Game/7 Blitz Championship

JUNE 30, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $1,500 **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32631

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

30th annual World Open Game/10 Championship

JULY 3, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $2,200 **GP Points:** 20 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32633

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

33rd annual World Open Blitz Championship

JULY 4, 2022, PENNSYLVANIA

Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $3,000 **GP Points:** 30 **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32632

Online

21st Annual Queen City Classic

MARCH 12, 2022

Event site: ChessKid.com **Address:** *ChessKid.com* **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Cris Collinsworth ProScan Fund **Email:** *aoneill@proscan.com* **Phone:** 866-577-7465 **Website:** *https://ccpf.org/programs/queen-city-classic-chess-tournament/* **TLA ID:** 32661

2nd annual CCA March Open

MARCH 12, 2022

Event site: Internet Chess Club **Address:** *playcca.com* **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *events@chessclub.com* **Phone:** 4124365558 **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32670

Mid-America Action on ICC

MARCH 19, 2022

Event site: Internet Chess Club **Address:** *playcca.com* **Overall prize fund:** $3,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *events@chessclub.com* **Phone:** 4124365558 **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32672

2nd annual CCA April Open

APRIL 9, 2022

Event site: Internet Chess Club **Address:** *playcca.com* **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *events@chessclub.com* **Phone:** 4124365558 **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32675

Regional

ALABAMA

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)

See Tennessee.

MARCH 17-19, 2022

19th annual Southern Class Championships (FL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

ARIZONA

JUNE 8-9, 2022

2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)

See National Events.

ARKANSAS

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)

See Tennessee.

CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMEBER 19, 2021-ONGOING

PCC LBX Hangar Sunday Action

Event site: LBX Hangar Building (inside and out) **Address:** 4150 McGowen St, Long Beach CA 90808 **Overall prize fund:** 80% of total entry fee **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** John Tan **Email:** *paramountchessclub@gmail.com* **Phone:** 3107356871 **Website:** n/a **TLA ID:** 31701

MAY 26-30, 2022

31st annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 8-9, 2022

2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)

See National Events.

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022

50th annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

COLORADO

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022

Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 8-9, 2022

2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)

See National Events.

CONNECTICUT

APRIL 13-17, 2022

3rd Colonial Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

APRIL 13-17, 2022

14th annual Open at Foxwoods (CT)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16, 2022

13th annual Blitz at Foxwoods (CT)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16-17, 2022

FIDE U2400 at Foxwoods

Event site: Foxwoods Resort Casino **Address:** Rt 2, Mashantucket, CT 06339 **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269, leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32651

APRIL 22-24, 2022

27th Space Coast Open (FL)

See Grand Prix or *spacecoastchessfoundation.org.*

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2022

30th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022

50th annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

DELAWARE

APRIL 13-17, 2022

3rd Colonial Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022

50th annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

APRIL 13-17, 2022

3rd Colonial Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

FLORIDA

MARCH 17-19, 2022

19th annual Southern Class Championships (FL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 13-17, 2022

3rd Colonial Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

MAY 26-30, 2022

31st annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022

50th annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

GEORGIA

MARCH 17-19, 2022

19th annual Southern Class Championships (FL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 13-17, 2022

3rd Colonial Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

APRIL 22-24, 2022

27th Space Coast Open (FL)

See Grand Prix or *spacecoastchessfoundation.org.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022

50th annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

IDAHO

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022

Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)

See Grand Prix.

ILLINOIS

MARCH 25-27, 2022

26th annual Mid-America Open (MO)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 22-24, 2022

27th Space Coast Open (FL)

See Grand Prix or *spacecoastchessfoundation.org.*

MAY 26-30, 2022

31st annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 29, 2022

9th annual Chicago Open Blitz (IL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 29-30, 2022

Chicago FIDE U2200

Event site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel **Address:** 601 North Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling, IL 60090 **Overall prize fund:** $1,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32662

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022

50th annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

INDIANA

MARCH 19, 2022

Michigantown Madness (IN)

See Grand Prix.

MARCH 25-27, 2022

26th annual Mid-America Open (MO)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022

31st annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 29, 2022

9th annual Chicago Open Blitz (IL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 29-30, 2022

Chicago FIDE U2200 (IL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

IOWA

MAY 26-30, 2022

31st annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

KENTUCKY

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY

Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)

See Tennessee.

MAINE

MARCH 5, 2022

Claude E Webber Memorial Cup 2022 (ME)

See Grand Prix.

MARCH 12, 2022

2022 Maine Scholastic Team Chess Championships

Event site: Lewiston High School **Address:** 156 East Ave, Lewiston, ME 04240 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** Y **Organizer:** Maine Chess Association **Email:** *president@chessmaine.org* **Phone:** 207-904-0499 **Website:** *https://www.chessmaine.org/* **TLA ID:** 32722

MARCH 19, 2022

2022 Maine Scholastic Individual Chess Championships

Event site: Messalonskee Middle School **Address:** 33 School Bus Dr, Oakland, ME 04963 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** Y **Organizer:** Maine Chess Association **Email:** *mdudley@chessmaine.org* **Phone:** 207-904-0499 **Website:** *https://www.chessmaine.org/* **TLA ID:** 32723

APRIL 16, 2022

Kate Gasser Classic Swiss

Event site: Comfort Inn Saco/Biddeford **Address:** 48 Industrial Park Rd, Saco, ME 04072 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** Y **Organizer:** Michael Dudley **Email:** *mdudley@chessmaine.org* **Phone:** 207-904-0499 **Website:** *https://chessmaine.net/chessmaine/events/* **TLA ID:** 32743

MARYLAND

MARYLAND CHESS TOURNAMENTS (NORTH PENN CHESS CLUB)

Maryland Chess runs 21+ annual K-12 tournaments every other Saturday from September through June & 12+ annual 1-day or multi-day open tournaments for adults & K-12 players on weekends. See *www.MD-Chess.org* for tournament announcements, registration for tournaments, updated wallcharts, live standings, signup for K-12 & open e-newsletters, lists of coaches & clubs, camp announcements, & news. K-12 MD players who compete in the Varsity section (for players rated 1600+) of 1 of 8+ annual MD-Sweet-16 Qualifiers can qualify for the $48,000+ scholarship to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County awarded annually. UMBC is a perennial top-10 contender for the collegiate national chess championship.

MARCH 5, 2022

Charm City CC 2022 Spring Action Tournament

Event site: The DoubleTree Hilton Hotel **Address:** 4 W University Pkwy, Colonnade Room, Baltimore, MD 21218 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Alan Horowitz **Email:** *charmcitychess@gmail.com* **Phone:** 917-573-5775 **Website:** *http://www.charmcitychess.com/* **TLA ID:** 32646

APRIL 13-17, 2022

3rd Colonial Open (VA)

See Grand Prix.

APRIL 13-17, 2022

14th annual Open at Foxwoods (CT)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022

14th annual World Open Under 13 (PA)

See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022

12th annual World Open Senior Amateur (PA)

See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022

World Open FIDE Under 2200 (PA)

See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-26, 2022

16th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-28, 2022

15th annual Philadelphia International (PA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 27-29, 2022

World Open Amateur (PA)

See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-30, 2022

World Open FIDE U2400 (PA)

See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022

50th annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MASSACHUSETTS

APRIL 13-17, 2022

14th annual Open at Foxwoods (CT)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16, 2022

13th annual Blitz at Foxwoods (CT)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16-17, 2022

FIDE U2400 at Foxwoods (CT)

See Connecticut or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2022

30th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-26, 2022

16th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-28, 2022

15th annual Philadelphia International (PA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 27-29, 2022

World Open Amateur (PA)

See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022

50th annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MICHIGAN

MARCH 19-20, 2022

2022 Michigan Junior Chess Championships

Event site: Wyndham Garden Ann Arbor **Address:** 2900 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Michigan Chess Association **Email:** *jeffchess64@gmail.com* **Phone:** 810-955-7271 **Website:** *n/a* **TLA ID:** 32597

APRIL 23-24, 2022

2022 Michigan Senior Championships

Event site: Twin Knights Gaming **Address:** 4955 Rochester Rd, Troy, MI 48085 **Overall prize fund:** $300 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Michigan Chess Association **Email:** *jeffchess64@gmail.com* **Phone:** 810-955-7271 **Website:** *https://www.michess.org/* **TLA ID:** 32677

31st annual CHICAGO OPEN

May 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 or 29-30, Memorial Day weekend- see chessevents.us

8 sections, prizes $100,000 unconditionally guaranteed!

Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, Wheeling IL - free parking, free lectures by GM John Fedorowicz

Open section, 5/26-30: 9 rounds, 40/90, SD/30,.+30.

Other sections: 5/27-30, 28-30 or 29-30: 7 rounds, 40/90, SD/30, +30 (3-day option, rds 1-2 G/60 d10; 2-day option rds 1-4 G/30 d10). All merge & play for same prizes. Unrated not allowed in U1300 through U1900.

Masks may be required. **Certification** of Covid vaccination required (may change based on pandemic status).

Open: $10000-5000-2500-1300-1000-800-600-500-400-400, clear or tiebreak first $300 bonus, top FIDE U2400/unr $2000-1000. FIDE rated, GM and IM norms possible.

U2300, U2100, U1900, U1700: Each $5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. U2300 & U2100 are FIDE rated. Unrated limit in U2100, $1000.

U1500, U1300: Each $4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300-300.

U1000: $1000-500-300-200-200-150-150-100-100-100, unrated limit $200.

FIDE ratings used for Open, May official USCF for others. Unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

Post-event OTB or online rating posted 5/24/21-5/24/22 more than 30 pts over section maximum: prize limit $1500.

Under 26 games prize limit as of May list: U1000 $500, U1300 $1000, U1500 $1500, U1700 $2000, U1900 $2500..

Mixed Doubles: male/female combined score, any section $2000-1000-500-400-300. See chessevents.us.

Entry fee: $207 at chessaction.com by 3/22, $227 by 5/25, $250 to 2 hrs before rd 1 or at site 1 hr before. Open $100 more if not USCF 2200/up or FIDE 2100/up. Senior 65/up $100 less, except U1000. Online $5 less to ICA memb. Mail or titled entry: see chessevents.us.

Under 1000 Section: $67 at chessaction.com by 5/25, $90 online by 2 hours before rd 1 or at site until 1 hour before.

Open titled minimum prizes: see chessevents.us..

5-day schedule (Open only): enter Thu to 6 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

4-day schedule (U2300 to U1500): enter Fri to 6, rds Fri 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

3-day schedule (U2300 to U1500): enter Sat to 10 am, rds Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

2-day schedule (U2300 to U1500): enter Sun to 9 am, rds Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30.

U1300, U1000 sections: same as U2300 to U1500 (4-day, 3-day, 2-day options), except last round Mon is 3:30 pm.

1/2-pt byes: limit 3 (2 last 4 rds); must commit before rd 3.

Hotel rates: 1-4/rm $118, link at chessevents.us or 800-937-8461, reserve by 5/12.

USCF membership required, special rates with entry.

Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied. No cellphone possession during play (in bag near table OK)

$2500 guaranteed blitz tournament, Sunday 10:45 pm.

For complete details on individual events, please visit *new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]*. You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MINNESOTA

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MISSISSIPPI

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY
Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

MISSOURI

DECEMBER 31, 2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY
Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club (TN)
See Tennessee.

MARCH 25-27, 2022
26th annual Mid-America Open (MO)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 29-JULY 4, 2022
50th annual World Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

NEBRASKA

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

NEVADA

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

NEW JERSEY

JANUARY 8, 2022-ONGOING ON SATURDAY
ICA Super Saturday IN-PERSON Quads
Event site: Community Church of Glen Rock **Address:** 354 Rock Road, Education Building, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** International Chess Academy **Email:** *chessdirector@icanj.net* **Phone:** 2018198280 **Website:** *https://www.icakidsonline.com* **TLA ID:** 32450

MARCH 5-6, 2022
New Jersey High School Championship
Event site: Union County Vocational Technical School **Address:** 1776 Raritan Rd, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** John Bartlett **Email:** *jbartlett.njscf@gmail.com* **Phone:** 732-233-1545 **Website:** n/a **TLA ID:** 32362

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

APRIL 13-17, 2022
14th annual Open at Foxwoods (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16-17, 2022
FIDE U2400 at Foxwoods (CT)
See Connecticut or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 22-24, 2022
27th Space Coast Open (FL)
See Grand Prix or *spacecoastchessfoundation.org.*

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2022
30th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
14th annual World Open Under 13 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 23-24, 2022
12th annual World Open Senior Amateur (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

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World Open FIDE Under 2200 (PA)
See Pennsylvania or *chessevents.us.*

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16th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-28, 2022
15th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
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JUNE 27-29, 2022
World Open Amateur (PA)
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50th annual World Open (PA)
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JUNE 30, 2022
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30th annual World Open Game/10 Championship (PA)
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JULY 4, 2022
33rd annual World Open Blitz Championship (PA)
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NEW MEXICO

JUNE 8-9, 2022
2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

NEW YORK

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

APRIL 13-17, 2022
14th annual Open at Foxwoods (CT)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16, 2022
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See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

APRIL 16-17, 2022
FIDE U2400 at Foxwoods (CT)
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MAY 13-15, 2022
2nd annual Niagara Falls Open (NY)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
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NORTH CAROLINA

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3rd Colonial Open (VA)
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NORTH DAKOTA

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

OHIO

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26th annual Mid-America Open (MO)
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31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
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OREGON

JUNE 8-9, 2022
2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

PENNSYLVANIA

North Penn Chess Club
Main & Richardson - St. John's UCC, 500 West Main

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MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
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JUNE 23-24, 2022
14th annual World Open Under 13
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32608

JUNE 23-24, 2022
12th annual World Open Senior Amateur
Event site: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $1,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32609

JUNE 23-24, 2022
World Open FIDE Under 2200
Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32610

JUNE 24-26, 2022
16th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 24-28, 2022
15th annual Philadelphia International (PA)
See Grand Prix or *chessevents.us.*

JUNE 27-29, 2022
World Open Amateur
Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $5,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32170

JUNE 29-30, 2022
World Open FIDE U2400
Event site: Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown **Address:** 201 North 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103 **Overall prize fund:** $2,000 **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** Y **Handicap accessible:** Y **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Continental Chess Association **Email:** *director@chess.us* **Phone:** 3472012269 leave message including email address **Website:** *http://www.chessevents.us* **TLA ID:** 32614

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See Grand Prix.

SOUTH DAKOTA

APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2022
Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

TENNESSEE

DECEMBER 31,2021-ONGOING ON SUNDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY
Weekly and Monthly Rated Chess at Memphis Chess Club
Event site: Douglas Community Center **Address:** 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 3810 **Overall prize fund:** n/a **GP Points:** n/a **FIDE Rated:** N **Handicap accessible:** N **Residency restriction:** N **Organizer:** Memphis Chess Club **Email:** *info@memphischessclub.com* **Phone:** 7318685755 **Website:** *https://www.memphischessclub.com/* **TLA ID:** 32334

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TEXAS

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50th annual World Open (PA)
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UTAH

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See Grand Prix.

JUNE 8-9, 2022
2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

VIRGINIA

APRIL 13-17, 2022
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WASHINGTON

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Sheridan Wyoming Open (WY)
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 8-9, 2022
2022 U.S. Women's Open (NV)
See National Events.

WEST VIRGINIA

APRIL 13-17, 2022
3rd Colonial Open (VA)
See Grand Prix.

WISCONSIN

MAY 26-30, 2022
31st annual Chicago Open (IL)
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MAY 29, 2022
9th annual Chicago Open Blitz (IL)
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MAY 29-30, 2022
Chicago FIDE U2200 (IL)
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WYOMING

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FORMAT: Players play 6 games as single round robin, groupings based on order entries received. Players start in Preliminary round and qualify for Semi-final and then Final rounds based on scores in previous round. **ENTRY FEE:** $25 per entry. Players can enter up to a maximum of 10 times per event. **PRIZES:** Prize fund of $2300 based on 200 entries. $10 correspondence chess gift certificate to players knocked out in Preliminary round.

7-Player Round Robins

Victor Palciauskas Tournament (ICCF Server)

FORMAT: Players play 6 games as single round robin, groupings based on ratings. **ENTRY FEE:** $5 per entry. **PRIZES:** 1st place receives a signed certificate.

4-Player Quads

John W. Collins Memorial (Postal) | **Walter Muir E-Quads** (ICCF Server)

FORMAT: Players play 6 games as double round robin, groupings based on ratings. **ENTRY FEE:** $10 per entry. **PRIZES:** 1st place receives $25 correspondence chess gift certificate and signed certificate.

2-Player Matches (Postal or Email)

FORMAT: Players play either 2, 4, or 6 games against the same opponent. Selecting multiple options may facilitate faster pairings. Pairings based on ratings or players may name their own opponent. **ENTRY FEE:** $5 per entry. **PRIZES:** None.

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❑ Golden Knights EF: $25 ❑ Electronic Knights EF: $25 | ❑ Palciauskas ICCF EF: $5 | ❑ Muir ICCF Quad EF: $10 ❑ Collins Quad EF: $10 | 2-player matches, EF: $5 per entry, see above for options Postal Match: 2 ❑ | 4 ❑ | 6 ❑ Email Match: 2 ❑ | 4 ❑ | 6 ❑

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PAGE 13 CHESS TO ENJOY

PROBLEM 1. 18. ... Qh4+ 19. Ng3 Rfd8!. Or 19. g3 Qxh5. **PROBLEM 2.** White resigned after 16. ... Bg4! (not 16. ... Bd7 17. Rf3!) 17. Rf4 Rae8 because 18. Bxf7+ Kh8 19. Bxe8 Rxf4 mates. **PROBLEM 3.** 14. Nc7! Nxc7 15. Bxc7 wins. **PROBLEM 4.** 18. Nc5! Nd4 (18. ... dxc5 19. Nf6+ and 20. Rxd7) 19. Nxd7 Nxf3 20. Nxe7+, Black resigns. Also 18. Nf6+ Bxf6 19. gxf6 g6 20. Nc5. **PROBLEM 5.** 18. h4! Qd8 (18. ... Qxd5 19. Re8+) 19. Re7! Qf8 20. Qb3!, Black resigns. **PROBLEM 6.** 14. Rxe6+! fxe6 15. Qxe6+ Be7 16. Bg5 Qc7 (16. ... Qd8 17. Ne5!) 17. Re1 and wins. Or 15. ... Kd8 16. Bg5+ Kc7 17. Bf4+ Kd8 18. Ne5.

PAGE 41 MAKE YOUR MOVE

TACTIC 1. 28. Rc6! Forcing the queen away from c5 where it guards the e7–square. For the same reason, the rook cannot be captured as Ne7+ will fork Black's king and queen. **28. ... Qa5 29. Ne7+ Kh8 30. Ra6** Winning a tempo to set-up the final win of material. Note that 30. Rc4 also accomplishes this for White. **30. ... Qc5 31. Nxd5 Qxd5 32. Rd1** and **Black resigned**. Salem – Tari, World Rapid 2021. **TACTIC 2. 30. ... Rxa4!** Black has several other strong moves, but the text move is the most direct and best. **31. Rxa4 Rxa4 32. Rxa4 Nxa4 33. Qxa4 Qxe2** The point: White's queen has been diverted to a4, and now White's kingside defense crumbles. **34. Kg1 e3!** The threat of ... Qe2-f2+ forces White's resignation. Black would probably also win after 34. ... Nf8 35. Qb3 but that is much slower and less concrete. **White resigned.** Dvirnyy – Kosakowski, World Rapid 2021. **TACTIC 3. 11. ... dxe4! 12. Nxe4??** White responded a little too quickly and misses Black's tactical point. If 12. Bxe4?? then 12. ... Bxc3 removes the defender and wins a piece. Therefore, White has to play 12. Bc4 when 12. ... h6 leaves Black with a solid pawn up and clearly better chances. **12. ... Rxe4!** and **White resigned** on account of 12. ... Rxe4 13. Rxe4 Bxd2 14. Qxd2 Nxe4 15. Qb4 Nf6 and Black would be a clear piece up. Aziz – Nasuta, World Rapid 2021. **TACTIC 4. 19. ... Bd6!** The bishop drops back to avoid being exchanged and simultaneously preventing White from playing Ra3 which would help defend White's king. **20. Qb3** White tries to defend on h3. If White instead plays 20. Re1 to give the king an escape square, then Black simply continues 20. ... Bxh3! 21. Qd2 (or 21. Bxg7+ Kxg7 22. Qd4+ Rf6 23. gxh3 Qxh3 and Black forces mate) 21. ... Bxg2 22. Kxg2 Rf4 23. Rg1 e3 24. Bxe3 Rxc4 25. Kf1 Qh3+ 26. Ke2 Rf8 with an ongoing, decisive attack. **20. ... Rf3!** A beautiful interference move. **21. gxf3** Or 21. Qc2 Bxh3 and it is over for White. **21. ... Bxh3** This capture wins, but Black can force mate with 21. ... Qf4! 22. Rfb1 Bxh3! and White's king is stuck in the trap and White can only delay mate by giving up her material, e.g., 23. Bxg7+ Kxg7 24. Qc3+ Kg6 and it is over for White. **22. f4 Bxf4 23. Ra3 Bg2** Also 23. ... e3 wins. **24. Qg3** and **White resigned** at the same time as 24. Qg3 Qh1 mate would have ended the game. Ovod – E. Atalik World Women's Rapid, 2021. **TACTIC 5. 18. a5!** Kicking the b6-knight away, setting up the tactical strike that follows. **18. ... Nc8 19. Nxe6!** The whack! **19. ... Bf6** Black cannot allow 19. ... fxe6 20. Qxe6+ Kh8 21. Rxd7 when White is easily winning. **20. Nxc7 Rxe2 21. Kf1!** Forcing Black's rook to an inferior square. **21. ... Re4** Of course, 21. ... Rxf2+ 22. Kxf2 Bxa1 23. Rxd7 is out of the question. **22. Ra2** White has won a pawn and his pieces are also better placed that their black counterparts. The rest is technique for a grandmaster like Jobava. **22. ... Ne5 23. Ba3 Be7 24. Nxe5 Rxe5 25. Bb2 Rh5 26. h3 Na7** Or 26. ... Nd6 27. Nd5 Bd8 28. Ba3 and Black's position crumbles. **27. Rd7 Nc6 28. Nd5 Bd8 29. Bc3 Re8 30. Rxb7** and **Black resigned**. Jobava – Dziuba, World Rapid 2021. **TACTIC 6. 25. Ne4!** This is stronger than 25. Nxd5 for instance, 25. ... exd5 26. Rxc4 dxc4 27. Qxc4+ Kh8 28. Re6 Rc8 29. Rxf6 Rxc4 30. Rxd6 Rc1+ 31. Kh2 Rxb1 32. Rxd7 when White has excellent winning chances but there is still a lot of work to be done. **25. ... Qh6 26. Rxc4 dxc4 27. Qxc4 Bd5** Also the sharper 27. ... b5 fails after 28. axb5 Bd5 29. Qe2 Bb4 30. Nc3 axb5 31. Nxd5 (31. Qxg4+ Kh8 32. Qe2 also works) 31. ... Bxe1 32. Nf4 and White has a decisive advantage. **28. Qe2!** White could also have captured with 28. Qxa6 but the g4-pawn is tastier. **28. ... Bb4 29. Qxg4+** White is up two pawns, yet 29. Rd1!? is possibly even stronger. **29. ... Kh8 30. Rf1 Rf8 31. Qe2 Rg8 32. Qxa6 Nf6 33. Qe2 Nh5 34. Nc3** and **Black resigned**. Firouzja – Jakubowski, World Rapid 2021. **TACTIC 7. 16. ... Nh5!!** A surprising jump, ignoring the pin on the knight to exploit a pin of his own. **17. Be3** After 17. Bxd8 Nxg3! White gets mated because there is no stopping ... Rh8-h1. The bishop hiding on a7 is all of a sudden a rather wonderful piece. **17. ... Qh4! 18. Bxa7** White is hopelessly lost, e.g., 18. Nd2 Nf4! (or 18. ... 0–0–0 19. Bxa7 Nf4 and Black is winning) 19. Ndf1 Nxg2 and Black's attack crashes through. **18. ... Nf4 19. f3 Bxf3** Or 19. ... Qh2+ 20. Kf2 Qxg2+ and White's queen falls. **20. Kf2 Bxg2** Or 20. ... Rg8 but many things win for Black in this position. **21. Rh1 Bxh1 22. Rxh1 Qf6** White is busted, and it was soon over. **23. Rxh8+ Qxh8 24. Kf3 Nxa7 25. Nd2 Nc6 26. Ndf1 0–0–0 27. b4 f5 28. exf5** and **White resigned** at the same time. Nevednichy – Sjugirov World Rapid 2021. **TACTIC 8. 22. ... Rc3!** In the game, Black played less accurately: **22. ... Rd4? 23. Qe3?!** (White should have played 23. Qf1! as 23. ... d5 24. c3! is fine for White as 24. ... Qxc3?? is not possible on account of 25. Qxb5+! instantly winning for White.) **23. ... d5 24. c3 Ra4 25. exd5??** (White blunders; after 25. Nb3 Rxe4 26. Qxh6 White should not lose) **25. ... Qa5 26. d6** (or 26. Nb3 Rxa2!! 27. Nxa5 Rbxb2+ 28. Kc1 Ba3 and Black forces mate) **26. ... Rxa2 27. d7+ Kd8 28. Nc4 Qa4 29. Kc1 Qxc4 30. Qa7** (or 30. Qd3 Qb3 31. Re2 Ra1+) **30. ... Qxc3+!** with mate in Aziz – Alekseenko, World Rapid 2021. **23. Qxb5+** Accepting the opportunity to win two rooks for the queen, but White's king is very vulnerable. If instead 23. Qf1 then 23. ... Rxc2 24. Nb3 Rxh2 and Black is winning. **23. ... axb5 24. bxc3 Qxc3 25. Rf1** Or 25. Nb3 d5 26. Nc1 Bc5 threatening ... Bc5-d4, and Black is winning. **25. ... Qb4+ 26. Kc1 d5!** Opening up for the bishop to join the attack on White's king. **27. exd5 Qa3+ 28. Kb1 Bb4 29. Ne4 Ba5!** Threatening ... Qa3-b4+. **30. c3 Kf8 31. Rf3 b4 32. Rdd3 bxc3 33. Nxc3 Qb4+ 34. Kc2 e4** and Black wins. **TACTIC 9. 16. Bh3!!** Brilliant, removing Black's bishop on e6, allowing mobilization on the h-file against Black's king. If instead 16. Rg1 then 16. ... Rxf3 is simply better for Black. **16. ... Bxb3?** Black fails to proper account for the trouble his king is in after the departure of the light-squared bishop. The alternatives were: 16. ... Bc4!? (the best, if also entirely inadequate) 17. Qg2! Nxh1 18. Rxh1 Rf7 19. Nd2 (or 19. g6 hxg6 20. Nd2) 19. ... Nf8 20. g6 hxg6 21. Qh2 Bh4 22. Nxc4 bxc4 23. Bf1! and with the bishop transferring to the a2-g8 diagonal while opening the h-file, Black is lost or 16. ... Bxh3? 17. Rxh3 Rxf3 18. Kb1! avoiding any unfortunate accidents after ... Ng3-e2+ and the rook on h3 is hanging, while 18. Qh2 Nf1 even wins for Black, and now Black loses material or 16. ... Bf7? 17. Rh2 and White intends to follow up with Bg4 and the knight on g3 is hopelessly stuck in White's camp with no way home. **17. cxb3 Nxh1 18. Be6+** Or 18. Rxh1 first. **18. ... Kh8 19. Rxh1 Rxf3** If 19. ... h6 intending 20. gxh6 g6, White simply plays 20. g6! threatening Be3xh6, and if 20. ... Rf4 then 21. Bxf4 exf4 22. Bxd7 Qxd7 23. Qxf4 and White is completely winning. **20. Bg4!?** Note that 20. Qh2 loses to 20. ... Nf8! the square cleared after the advance of Black's rook. But other queen moves win for White, for instance, 20. Qe2 when the rook cannot move on account of Rh1xh7+ and Qe2-h5 mate. **20. ... Qf8** Or 20. ... Nc5 21. Qh2! (but not 21. Bxf3 Nxb3+ and Black wins!) 21. ... h6 22. gxh6 g6 23. Bxf3 and Black can resign. **21. Rxh7+ Kxh7 22. Qh2+ Kg8 23. g6 Rf1+ 24. Kc2** and **Black resigned** as he will have to give up a lot of material to delay mate. M. Antipov – Gabuzyan, World Rapid 2021.

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PROBLEM 1. Mating net: Black mates immediately: **1. ... Rg4 mate. PROBLEM 2. Mating net:** Black mates in two: **1. ... Ra1+ 2. Kc2 Nd4 mate. PROBLEM 3. Mating net:** Black wins in one move: **1. ... Nc3 mate. PROBLEM 4. Mating net:** Black mates by **1. ... Nxg3+ 2. Rxg3 Rxh2 mate. PROBLEM 5. Mating net:** Black mates in 1: **1. ... h2 mate. PROBLEM 6. Mating net:** Black mates in two: **1. ... Nxb3+ 2. axb3 Qa3 mate.**

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MY BEST MOVE

TOM KAYMA

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS ADVISOR, CHESS COACH

MY FATHER TAUGHT ME TO play chess soon after GM Bobby Fischer won the World Championship in 1972. I have been an active tournament player most of my life, playing predominantly in Atlanta and the Southeast. My favorite players have always been tactical players like Paul Morphy and GM Mikhail Tal.

Although I have been a rated expert for many years, I earned my master title in 1990 — but only held the rating for one tournament! I joke with other players that I am the shortest tenured master in US Chess history!

In my working days, I am an M&A advisor, negotiating the sale of businesses. My work naturally involves taking risks in both the negotiations and completion of transactions. I enjoy scrutinizing tactical risks in chess as well.

Looking to test myself against different players, I decided in 2003 to fly to Los Angeles to play in the U.S. Open. I told myself that I was going to play aggressive chess and not be concerned with sacrificing material if needed. To help achieve this goal, I spent the long flight studying the *Anthology of Chess Combinations*. My attitude did not waver, and in the end, I was fortunate to play my best move ever.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, SVESHNIKOV VARIATION (B33)

John Jaffray (1865)
Thomas Kayma (2061)
U.S. Open (8), 08.11.2003

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5 6. Ndb5 d6 7. Nd5 Nxd5 8. exd5 Nb8 9. c4 Be7 10. Be3 0–0 11. Bd3 a6 12. Nc3 f5 13. f3 Bh4+ 14. g3 Bg5 15. Bf2 Nd7 16. 0–0 Nf6 17. Qc2 Qe8

My first sacrifice of the game. I wasn't sure if it was good, but it was consistent with my tournament goals.

18. Bxf5 Qh5 19. Bxc8 Raxc8 20. Qd3 Nd7 21. g4 Qh3 22. Bg3 Bf4 23. Ne2 Nc5 24. Qa3 Bxg3 25. Nxg3 Rf4 26. Rac1 Rcf8 27. b4

BLACK TO MOVE

27. ... Ne4!

This is MY BEST MOVE! I had seen this idea a few moves before. Due to the horizontal and vertical tactics, the knight can march right into the position.

28. Nxe4

If 28. fxe4 White drops material after 28. ... Rxf1+ 29. Rxf1 Rxf1+ 30. Nxf1 Qxa3. The tactics all work due to White's queen position.

28. ... Rxg4+ 29. Ng3

Now 29. Kf2 Qg2+ 30. Ke3 Rxe4+ gives White a choice between two bad outcomes: 31. fxe4 (worse yet is *31. Kxe4 Qe2+ 32. Qe3 Rf4* mate) 31. ... Qh3+ and the queen is lost.

29. ... Rxg3+ 30. hxg3 Qxg3+ 31. Kh1 Rf4, White resigned.

As part of my trip, I happened to meet the eventual tournament winner, GM Alex Shabalov. After some cajoling and negotiations, I ended up getting lessons from him during the week, and I showed him this game the day after it was played.

As we played through the moves, Shabalov commented that he was not sure he would have found 27. ... Ne4!. I laughed and said I didn't believe him, assuming he was just being nice. To this day, I still don't know the truth. What do you think?

You can read archival copies of "My Best Move" on ***uschess.org***, click on "Chess Life Magazine," and then "Archives."

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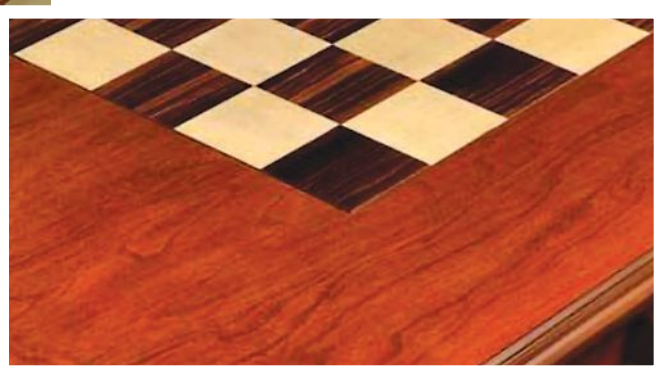

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4) Provisional (under 26 games) prize limits in Under 1000 to Under 2000.

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July official USCF ratings used (June FIDE used for Open Section). Unofficial ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

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Bring set, board, clock- not supplied.

5-day schedule: Thu 7 pm, Fri to Sun 11 am & 6 pm, Mon 10 am & 5 pm.

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4-day schedule: Fri 11 am, 2:30 pm & 6 pm, merges with others Fri 6 pm.

3-day schedule (not U1000): Sat 11, 1:30, 3:30, 6 & 8:30, merges with others Sun 11 am..

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Half point byes OK all, limit 3 (limit 2 in last 4 rounds). Must commit before round 4.

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